



Together

we fight against
Cervical Cancer

I am protected

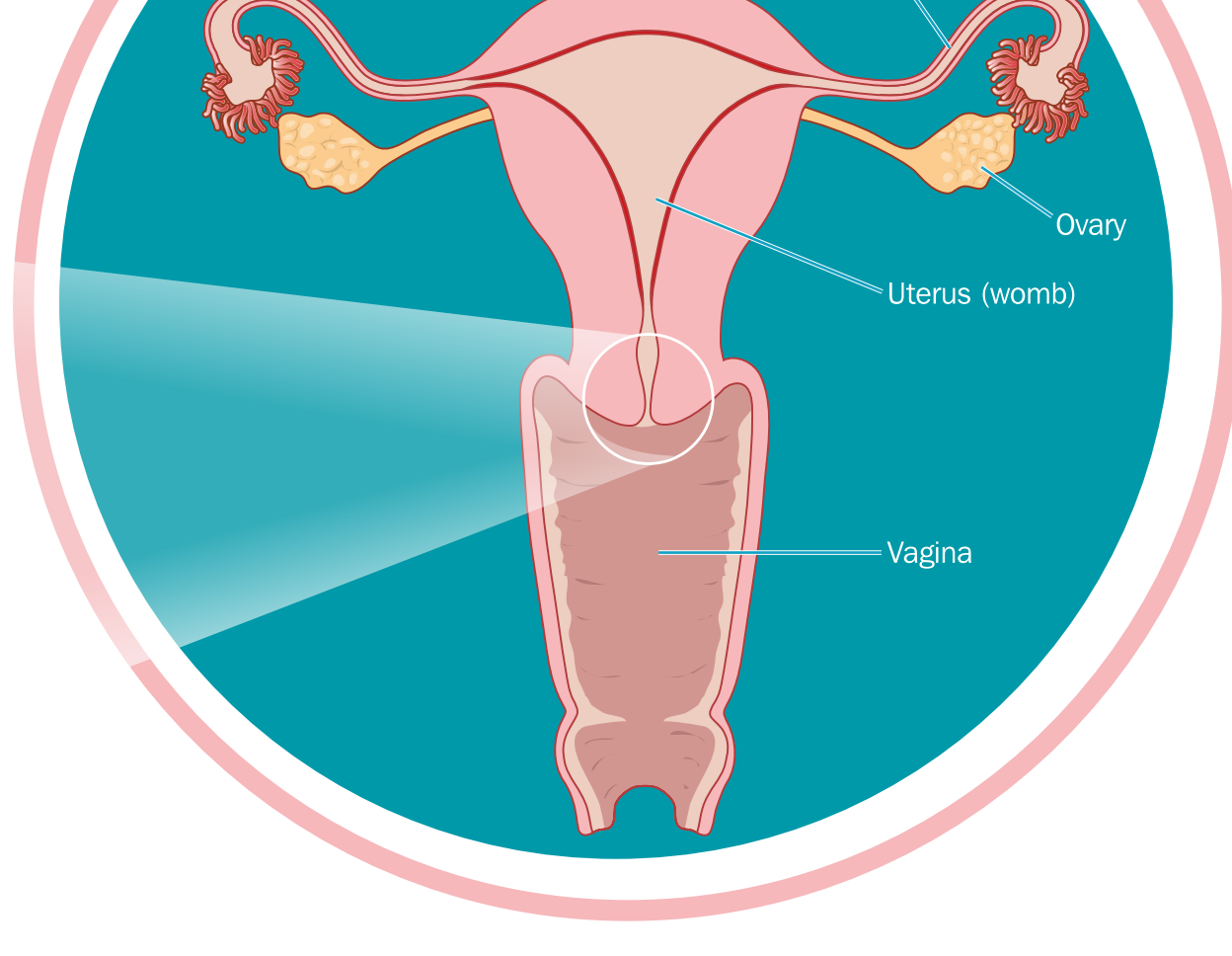
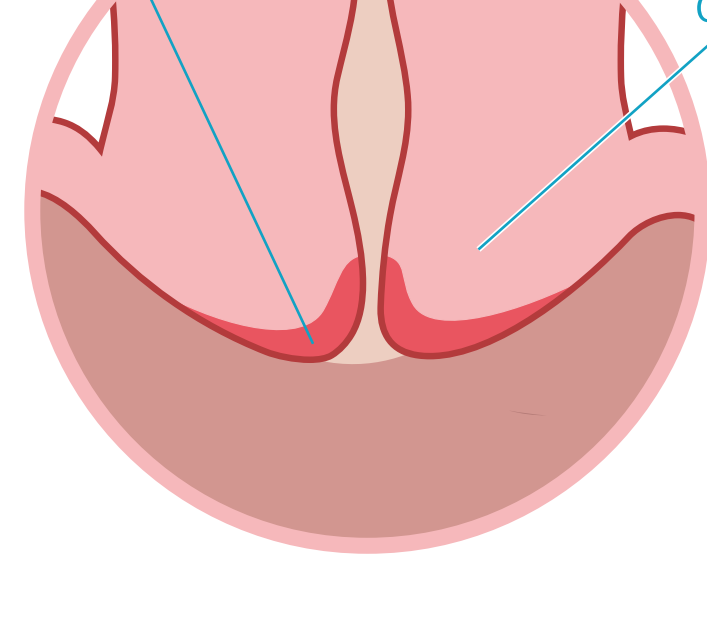
Knowledge is Prevention **Cervical Cancer**

By Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre

What is Cervical Cancer?

The cervix is the part reproductive system that connects the uterus (womb) to the vagina.

Cervical cancer is abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cells in the cervix



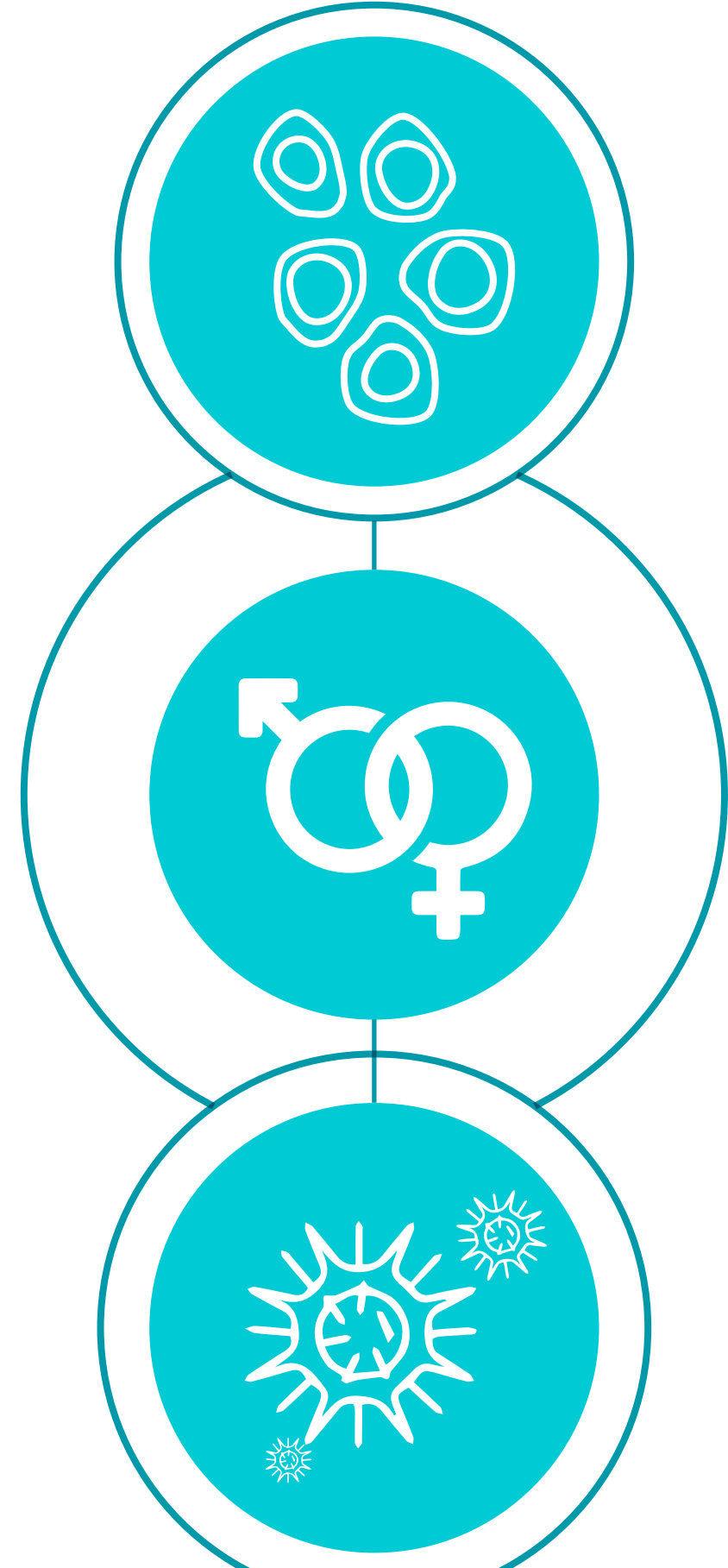
What Causes Cervical Cancer?

99% of cervical cancer cases are linked to genital infection with HPV

HPV is a common virus that is spread through sexual intercourse.

Most people get it shortly after marriage, due to the start of sexual activity, however it goes away quickly.

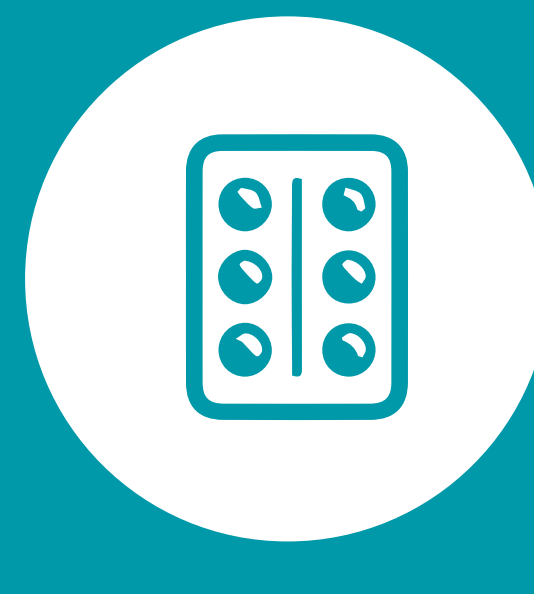
If HPV infection stays in your body, it may lead to cervical



Other Risk Factors



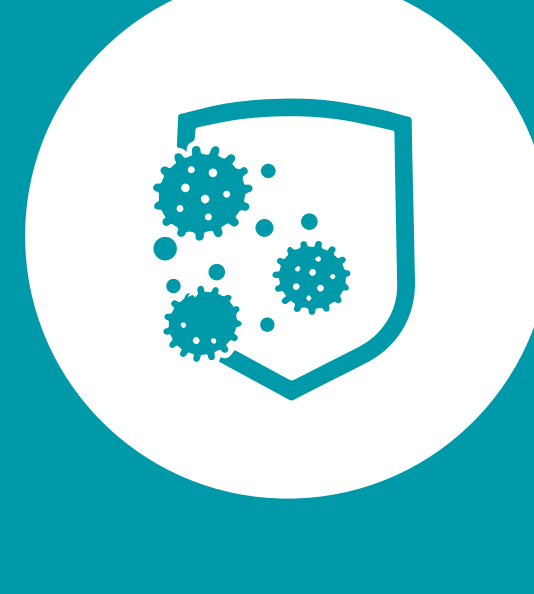
Smoking



Contraceptive Pills



Young age at the first full term pregnancy (younger than 17 years)



Weak Immune System

Symptoms tend to appear only after the cancer has reached an advanced stage.

How Do I Know If I Have Cervical Cancer?

Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding (irregular; inter-menstrual i.e. between periods or bleeding after sexual intercourse)

Pain during sexual intercourse

Continuous Vaginal Discharge

Persistent pelvic pain

Being screened regularly means that any abnormal changes in the cervix can be identified early on, if necessary, treated to stop cancer developing.

Vaccines that help protect women from cervical cancer are: Cervarix and Gardasil

Women from 15 to 26 years of age should take it

HPV vaccine will not treat or cure the type of HPV a woman already has, but it will protect her against other types of HPV

Administered once in a lifetime, in 3 doses

HPV vaccines don't protect against all types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer

How can I prevent it?



What is a Pap Test?

It is NOT a test for cancer

The main purpose of screening with the pap test is to detect abnormal cells that may develop into cancer if left untreated

A small sample of cells from the cervix is taken and sent to the laboratory for examination

Eligibility criteria

Age group 25 - 65 years

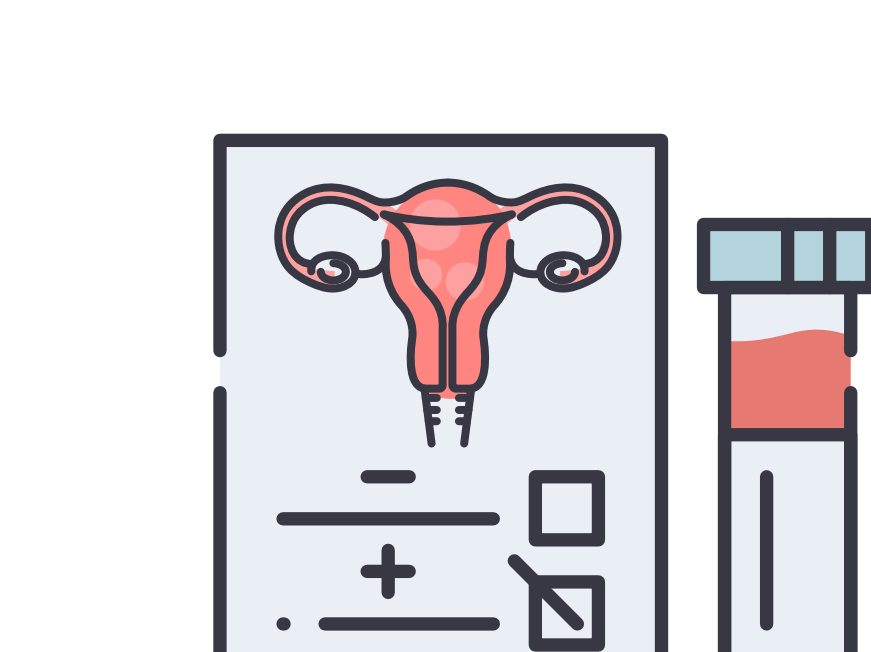
Married, widowed or divorced

If you have NOT had total removal of uterus "Total hysterectomy"

Not every women is eligible for a Pap test



How pap test is done



The doctor takes a small sample of cells from cervix and sends them to a laboratory where they check for abnormal changes.

If abnormal changes are found, the cervix is usually examined under magnification. This is called colposcopy.

Pieces of tissue are surgically removed (biopsied) during this procedure and sent to a laboratory for examination.

How to be prepared for Pap test?



Many things can cause wrong test results by washing away or hiding abnormal cells of the cervix. Doctors suggest that for 2 days before the test you avoid:

- Douching
- Using tampons
- Using vaginal creams, suppositories, and medicines
- Using vaginal deodorant sprays or powders
- Having sex

Pap Test results



Results come out within 2 weeks of the test. In most cases, Pap test will be normal.



If unsatisfactory : it means that the sample of your cells wasn't able to be tested, either there was blood or not collected properly.

About 2% of Pap tests results are unsatisfactory. Don't panic you will be called to repeat the test within 6 to 12 weeks .



An abnormal Pap test indicates abnormal cell changes and not necessary cancer. It means further tests are required to decide the next step.

Is Cervical Cancer Preventable?

