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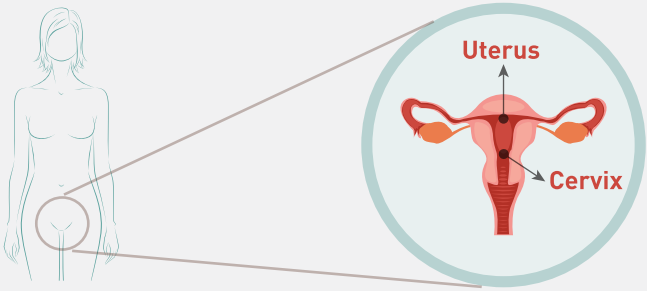
LifeCell Diagnostics

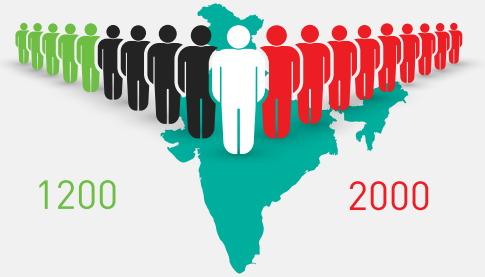
GUARDING THE GATE OF THE WOMB

Women's Health & Cervical Cancer

One of the most common cancers that affects a woman in her middle age is cervical cancer. It is the cancer of the cervix, the narrow opening that extends into the uterus through the vagina.



Cervical cancer accounts to **22.9%** of all cancers in women and contributes to **20%** of deaths due to cancer. **20%** of the women are diagnosed with cancer when they are older than **65 years**. Thus, it is very important for every woman to do the screening till the age of **70**.



In India alone, every year, nearly 2000 women are diagnosed with last stage of cervical cancer and 1200 women are diagnosed with early stage of cancer.

CAUSES OF CERVICAL CANCER

Cervical Cancer is caused by **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** in about 99% of the cases. HPV is the most common type of sexually transmitted infection. Other causes are multiple sexual partners, smoking, intake of birth control pills and early sexual contact.

99%
HPV

SYMPTOMS OF CERVICAL CANCER

Cervical cancer does not cause any symptom during its early phase. Only in its advanced stage it begins to show symptoms such as vaginal bleeding, abnormal vaginal discharge, pain during intercourse etc.

Abnormal bleeding can be seen:

1. Between regular menstrual periods
2. After sexual intercourse
3. After a pelvic exam
4. After menopause

Other common symptoms are:

1. Pelvic pain unrelated to menstrual cycle
2. Watery or thick foul odor discharge
3. Increased urgency to urinate
4. Pain during urination

HOW TO DETECT IT EARLY WITH BABYSHIELD

PAP SMEAR TEST: The sample for this test is collected through a routine pelvic examination. A lighted microscope is used to examine the external surface of the cervix. Any abnormal area that is noted scraped and the sample is sent to the pathologist to look for precancerous or cancerous changes. BabyShield offers **Liquid Based Cytology** method for collecting the cytology samples. The samples are then processed at the lab for precise results and reported within **24 hours**.

PAP SMEAR + HPV TEST: This is the second level confirmatory test that is prescribed if any abnormality is found in the pap smear. The same sample is used to check for the presence of HP virus.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU TAKE THIS TEST

Pap smear is recommended for women between **21-29** years once in every three years. In case the woman falls between the **age group of 30-65** , it is recommended to have a **Pap Smear + HPV Test** once, **every five years**.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ABNORMALITY

1. If the cancer is detected early, removal of the tumor through surgery is done. In case of old women, hysterectomy is suggested
2. In a more advanced case, removal of the uterus along with lymph nodes,and parts surrounding the cancerous site is done
3. Along with surgical intervention the patient is also advised radiation, chemotherapy and targeted therapy to completely curtail the spread of cancer.

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