

## Glossary

A	
<b>Adenocarcinoma</b>	A cancer that starts in the glandular cells of body, such as the cervix.
<b>Adenosquamous carcinoma</b>	A rare type of cervical cancer that contains both squamous cells and glandular cells. Also called mixed carcinoma.
<b>Anaesthetic</b>	A drug that stops a person from feeling pain during a medical procedure. Local anaesthetic numbs part of the body. General anaesthetic makes a person lose consciousness for a period of time.
<b>Atypia</b>	Slight changes to the cells of the cervix.
B	
<b>Benign</b>	Not cancerous. Also called nonmalignant.
<b>Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (BSO)</b>	Surgical removal of the ovaries and fallopian tubes. Removal of one ovary and fallopian tube is called a unilateral salpingo-oophorectomy.
<b>Biopsy</b>	The removal of a small sample of tissue from the body for examination or further testing.
<b>Brachytherapy</b>	A type of radiation therapy in which radioactive material is placed directly into or near cancerous cells.
<b>Blood transfusion</b>	A procedure in which whole blood or parts of blood are put into a patient's bloodstream through a vein.
C	
<b>Cervical Screening Test (CST)</b>	A test that checks the cervix for presence of the HPV virus. The CST has replaced the Pap test.
<b>Cervical canal</b>	The neck of the uterus. The cervical canal joins the uterine cavity to the vagina.
<b>Cervical intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN)</b>	Abnormal cells found on the surface of the cervix. Now referred to as squamous intraepithelial lesions (SIL).
<b>Cervix</b>	The lower, narrow end of the uterus that forms a canal between the uterus and vagina.
<b>Chemoradiation</b>	Chemoradiation uses a combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy and is the most common treatment for women with late stage cervical cancer.
<b>Chemotherapy</b>	Chemotherapy is generally recommended for women diagnosed with late stage cancer, where it has spread beyond the cervix. Chemotherapy drugs are most commonly given intravenously, however, some can be administered orally. These drugs aim to kill or slow the growth of cancer cells, while leaving healthy cells as undamaged as possible.
<b>Colposcopy</b>	Examination of the cervix, vulva and vagina from outside the body with a colposcope (a magnifying instrument).
<b>Cone Biopsy</b>	The removal of a cone-shaped piece of abnormal tissue from the cervix. The tissue is checked under a microscope for signs of disease. May be used to check how far pre-cancerous or cancerous cells have spread, or to remove early stage tumours. Also called conization.
<b>CT scan</b>	Computerised Tomography scan. Uses x-ray machines to create a detailed picture of the body.
<b>Cystitis</b>	Inflammation of the bladder lining and urinary tract.
D	
<b>Dilation and curettage (D&amp;C)</b>	A procedure to scrape and remove tissue from the inner lining of the uterus. The cervix is dilated (made larger) and a curette (spoon-shaped instrument) is inserted into the uterus to remove tissue. A tissue sample may then be checked under a microscope for signs of disease, such as infection or cancer. A dilation and curettage may be done after a miscarriage or to treat certain conditions, such as abnormal bleeding.
<b>Discharge</b>	A fluid that comes out of the body.

E	
<b>Ectocervix</b>	The ectocervix is the outer portion of the cervix that projects into the top section of the vagina. It forms a curved surface with the external os in the very middle.
<b>Endocervix</b>	The inner surface of the cervix that forms the cervical canal. The endocervix is lined with cells that make mucus.
<b>Epithelium</b>	A thin layer of tissue that covers organs, glands, and other structures within the body including the cervix.
<b>External os</b>	The external orifice (opening) of the uterus. The external os connects the cervical canal to the vagina.
G	
<b>Genital warts</b>	Small and rough growths of skin on the genitals. Genital warts are a sexually transmitted infection caused by certain types of HPV.
<b>Glandular cells</b>	A type of cell found in the inner surface of the cervix (endocervix).
<b>Grade</b>	A score that describes how similar cancer cells look compared to normal cells and how quickly they may grow.
H	
<b>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</b>	A group of viruses can cause abnormal cell growth and other changes to cells. Some types of HPV can increase the risk of cervical cancer.
<b>HPV Test</b>	A test that checks for the presence of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Also called a Cervical Screening Test.
<b>Hysterectomy</b>	Surgical removal of the uterus. Depending on the type of hysterectomy, other organs such as the fallopian tubes, ovaries and cervix may also be removed.
I	
<b>Internal os</b>	The internal orifice (opening) of the uterus. The internal os connects the uterine cavity to the cervical canal.
<b>Immunotherapy</b>	A type of therapy that uses substances to stimulate or suppress the immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.
L	
<b>Laparoscopy</b>	Surgery done through small cuts in the abdomen using a viewing instrument called a laparoscope. Also called keyhole surgery.
<b>Laparotomy</b>	A type of open surgery in which a long cut is made in the abdomen to examine and remove internal organs.
<b>Large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ)</b>	A procedure to remove cervical tissue for examination and to treat some precancerous changes of the cervix. Also called loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP).
<b>Laser Therapy</b>	The use of a laser beam to remove tissue and treat some precancerous changes of the cervix.
<b>Lesion</b>	An area of abnormal tissue.
<b>Liquid-based cytology (LBC) test</b>	A test that looks for cervical cell abnormalities if a Cervical Screening Test finds HPV.
<b>Lymphadenectomy</b>	A surgical procedure in which the lymph nodes are removed and a sample of tissue is checked under a microscope for signs of cancer.
<b>Lymphatic system</b>	A network of tissues, capillaries, ducts, vessels and nodes that removes excess fluid from tissues, absorbs fatty acids, transports fat, and produces immune cells.
<b>Lymph nodes</b>	Small, bean-shaped structures found in groups throughout the body. They help protect the body against disease and infection. Also called lymph glands.
<b>Lymphoedema</b>	Swelling caused by a build-up of lymph fluid. This happens when lymph vessels or nodes can't drain properly because they have been removed or damaged.

## Glossary

M	
<b>Malignant</b>	Cancerous. Malignant cells can spread (metastasise) to other parts of the body.
<b>Menopause</b>	The time of life when a female's ovaries stop producing hormones and menstrual periods stop.
<b>Metastasis</b>	A cancer that has spread from a primary cancer in another part of the body. Also called secondary cancer.
<b>MRI scan</b>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging scan. A type of scan that uses magnetic fields and radio waves to take detailed pictures inside the body.
O	
<b>Oncogenic</b>	Potential to cause cancer.
P	
<b>Palliative care</b>	Care given to patients facing an advanced disease or terminal diagnosis, with the goal of reducing pain or discomfort and improving quality of life.
<b>Pap Test</b>	A test used to detect cell changes in the cervix. Replaced by the Cervical Screening Test.
<b>PET scan</b>	Positron Emission Tomography scan. A procedure in which a small amount of radioactive glucose (sugar) is injected into a person. A scanner is used to make detailed pictures of areas inside the body. Cancer cells will absorb more of the glucose solution, appearing brighter in the scan.
<b>Precancerous</b>	A term used to describe a condition that may become cancerous.
<b>Prognosis</b>	The expected outcome of a person's disease.
R	
<b>Radiation therapy</b>	The use of targeted radiation to kill or damage cancer cells so they cannot grow or spread. The radiation is usually in the form of x-ray beams. Also called radiotherapy.
<b>Radical hysterectomy</b>	Surgical removal of the uterus, cervix and part of the vagina.
S	
<b>Screening</b>	Checking for specific diseases in people before any symptoms appear, through an organised program.
<b>Speculum</b>	An instrument used to hold open the walls of the vagina so the cervix can be examined.
<b>Spinal tap</b>	A procedure in which a thin needle is put into the lower part of the spinal column to collect cerebrospinal fluid or to give drugs. Also called lumbar puncture.
<b>Squamous cell</b>	A type of cell found in the outer surface of the cervix (ectocervix).
<b>Squamous cell carcinoma</b>	A cancer that starts in the squamous cells of the body, such as those found in the outer surface of the cervix.
<b>Squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL)</b>	Abnormal growth of squamous cells on the surface of the cervix. Changes may be low grade (LSIL) or high grade (HSIL). In the past, SIL was referred to as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN).
<b>Staging</b>	Tests performed to determine how far a cancer has spread.
T	
<b>Test of cure</b>	Testing performed 12 months after treatment for a high-grade abnormality, and annually thereafter until the patient receives a negative test result on two consecutive occasions. Following this, a patient should return to five-yearly screening.
<b>Total hysterectomy</b>	Surgical removal of the uterus and cervix.

<b>Trachelectomy</b>	Surgical removal of the cervix and upper part of the vagina, with the uterus and ovaries remaining in place.
<b>Transformation zone</b>	Area of the cervix where the squamous and glandular cells meet. The most common site for abnormal cells to develop in the cervix.
<b>Tumor</b>	An abnormal growth of tissue. Tumors may be benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer).
<b>U</b>	
<b>Uterus</b>	A hollow, muscular organ in a female's lower abdomen where a fetus (developing baby) grows during pregnancy. Also called the womb.
<b>V</b>	
<b>Vagina</b>	The passage leading from the vulva to the uterus in females. Also called the birth canal.
<b>Vaginal stenosis</b>	A condition in which the vagina becomes narrower and shorter. Often caused by radiation therapy to the pelvis or from some types of surgery.
<b>Vulva</b>	The external female genital organs.
<b>Vulva intraepithelial neoplasia</b>	Abnormal cells are found on the surface of the vulvar skin. These abnormal cells may become cancerous and spread into nearby tissue.
<b>W</b>	
<b>Womb</b>	See uterus.

## References

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