Currently being distributed nationwide Information media that considers health as something

necessary at life's milestones. "Quarter Life" 2024 人生の節目に必要なモノと 健康について考える 情報メディア 「クオーター・ライフ」 QUARTER LIFE ||997年度~2007年度生まれのあなたへ 届け、ワクチ 「キャッチアップ接種」は今年がカギ LOVE490

Cervical cancer to prevent from teenage years onwards For those born from 1997 to 2007 Deliver the vaccine! Catch-up vaccination is key this year

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QL 2024 P2-3 in English

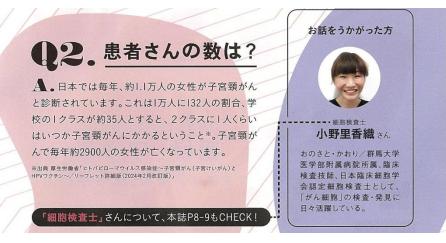
I want to know now! About uterine cervical cancer

Most cancers occur in elderly people, but cervical cancer is increasingly occurring in women in their late 20s in Japan, and is known as a common cancer that affects young girls. Would you like to think about "cancers that are familiar to you"?



Q1: What kind of disease is cervical cancer?

A: The cancer that develops at the entrance to the uterus (cervix). It progresses without subjective the symptoms and is characterized by occurring in young women in their 30s and 40s.



Kaori Onosato is active in the histopathological and cytopathological examination of "cancer cells" at Gunma University Hospital as a clinical laboratory technologist and a cytotechnologist certified by the

The person I spoke to

Japanese Society of Clinical Cytology. Also check pages 8-9 of this magazine for information on cytotechnologists!

Q2: How many patients were affected?

A: Approximately 11,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year in Japan. This means that there are 132 out of 10,000 people, and if each class at school has about 35 students, then about 1 out of every 2 classes will someday develop cervical cancer. Approximately 2,900 women die from cervical cancer each year.

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Human Papillomavirus Infection – Cervical Cancer (uterine cramps) and HPV Vaccine – / Detailed Leaflet <Revised February 2024>"

Q3. 原因は? A. HPV感染

子宮頸がんはヒトパピローマウイルス (Human Papillomavirus)感染が 原因で発症します。

Q4. **

HPVは
「特別なウイルス」?

A. いいえ。

Q3: What is the cause?

A: A HPV infection. Cervical cancer is caused by a viral infection called Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

Q4: Is HPV a "special virus"?

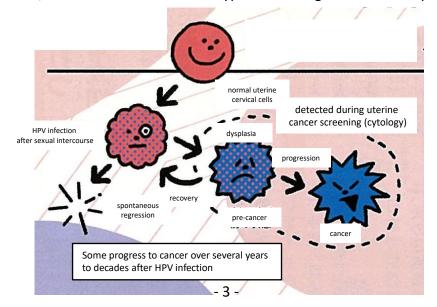
A: No. HPV is a common virus that causes warts on human skin and mucous membranes. Therefore, anyone, regardless of age or gender, can become infected if they have had sexual intercourse even once.

HPVはヒトの皮ふや粘膜のイボの原因となるごくありふれたウイルスです。 一度でも性交渉の経験があれば、年齢男女別に関係なく誰でも感染する 可能性があります。



Q5: Why does a common virus that causes warts cause cancer?

A: In most cases, even if you are infected with HPV, the virus will disappear and you will recover naturally. However, some viruses remain and may cause cancer over time. There are over 200 subtypes of this virus, and it is known that some types have a high risk of developing cancer.



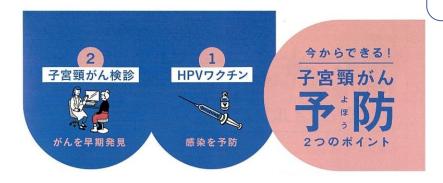


Q6: How to prevent it?

A: It is important to receive vaccinations and regular cervical cancer screenings.

The main types of viruses that cause cervical cancer are known, and there are vaccines to prevent infection. In Japan, starting from April 2023, the number of types of HPV vaccines that can be vaccinated for free has increased (see page 4 for details). By vaccinating at an age when they have no chance of getting infected with the virus, they can lower their risk of developing cancer later in life. The government recommends that women undergo cervical cancer screening once every two years starting at the age of 20 (see pages 4, 5, 11 for details).

QL 2024 P4-5 in English



You can do it now!
Two points for cervical cancer prevention

1: HPV vaccine. To prevent infection

2: Cervical cancer screening. To detect cancer early



Why vaccination is important?

Do you think that "Cancer is a disease that only occurs when I get older. It has nothing to do with younger myself?"

The number of cervical cancer patients rapidly increases from the late 20s to the early 30s (graph below), and by the age of 30, the number of people who have lost their uterus due to cancer treatment (become unable to conceive) is increasing, about 1,000 women a year.

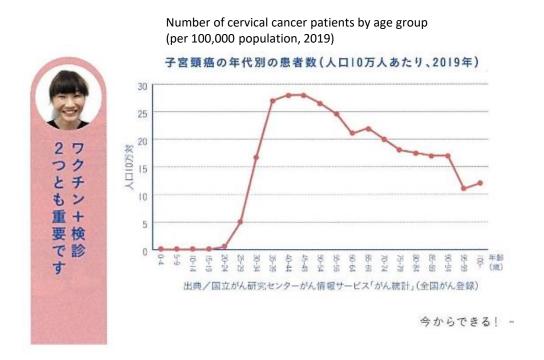
The cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is transmitted through sexual intercourse, so vaccination can prevent infection. In Japan, as of this year (2024), women of eligible age can receive HPV vaccination free of charge at public expense.

Publicly funded vaccinations are available to women in the 6th grade of elementary school to 1st year of high school, but women born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 2008 who were unable to receive vaccinations can also receive the vaccine in 2025. Vaccinations will be available at public expense until March. For more details, please read Dr Inaba's explanation on page 12 of this magazine.

After you receive the HPV vaccine, antibodies are produced in your body, and these antibodies prevent HPV infection. It is known that the HPV vaccine remains effective for at least 10 years if given twice or more. Therefore, it is recommended all over the world to take it before having sexual intercourse for the first time.

Bivalent, quadrivalent, and 9-valent are "how many types of HPV can be prevented?" Bivalent is effective against HPV16 and 18 types, which are the most common cause of cervical cancer, and quadrivalent is effective against HPV16 and 18. In addition to HPV 18, there are 4 types of HPV 6 and 11, and 9-valent HPV includes 5 types (types 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58), and is effective against approximately 80 to 90% of causes of cervical cancer. However, there are some HPV infections that cannot be prevented with vaccines alone, so it is important to undergo screening to detect cervical cancer early (see the next page for details).

*Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare "Leaflet on HPV Vaccine" 2024



Vaccines and medical examinations are both important.



Make regular checkups a habit after the age of 20.

In the early stages of cervical cancer, there are almost no early symptoms and you may not be aware that you have the disease. Therefore, it is important to have regular check-ups. "However you may think "But what does a medical checkup do?", I'll answer.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare recommends cervical cancer screening once every two years for women over the age of 20. This is because the incidence of cervical cancer begins to increase in the late 20s, and the highest number of patients are in their late 30s to 40s (graph below on page 4). The survival rate is said to be over 90%. That's why it's important to get screened from a young age.

*See page 11 of this magazine for new policies starting in 2024.

*If you have never had sexual intercourse the risk of HPV infection is low, so the benefits of getting tested are small.

1: Find a place to receive checkup

When you become 20 years old, you will receive a guide from the local government (city, ward, town, or village) where you have your residence card, and you will know where to go for a checkup. Employed workers may also have the option of undergoing a workplace health check. If you do not undergo a checkup provided by the local government, your co-payment will change. You can also visit a gynecologist or apply for a complete medical checkup.

POINT: For local government checkup and workplace health checkup, you can receive the checkup for free to 2000 yen.

2: Make a reservation

Most facilities require reservations for checkup. It will be smoother if you plan several possible dates before applying. The number of facilities that can be easily booked online is increasing.

POINT: It is best to avoid the period of your menstruation as much as possible when making reservations.



3: See a doctor

There is a medical history, visual examination, and cytology. During the interview, you will be asked about your menstrual status (cycle, presence of menstrual pain, amount of menstrual blood, etc.). During the "inspection," a special instrument is inserted into the vagina and the cervix is checked. In "Cytology',' cells from the cervix are collected using a brush or cotton swab. Depending on the medical institution where you undergo the checkup, you may also be asked to perform a physical examination (also known as pelvic examination or palpation) to check for swelling of the uterus and ovaries. In either case, as long as you relax, there is almost no pain and it only takes a few minutes. POINT: You will be required to take off your underwear on the day of your appointment, so we recommend wearing clothes that are easy to change into.

*Some medical institutions allow you to wear items such as "disposable pants" (P15) during the examination.

4: Know the results

If you take the checkup at a hospital or clinic, you will receive the results in about 10 days. If you take the checkup at a health screening facility, you will receive the results by mail approximately 2 weeks to 1 month later. If the result indicates that a re-examination is necessary, bring your test results with you and promptly visit an obstetrics and gynecology department that accepts health insurance (sometimes the same facility where you received your checkup can provide treatment).

POINT: Never leave results unchecked!