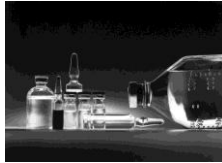


## Treating Cervical Cancer with Chemotherapy

Cervical cancer can be treated in different ways. One form of treatment is chemotherapy.

### What is chemotherapy?

Chemotherapy means using drugs to kill cancer cells. There are many drugs that fight cancer. Some women take more than one drug.



### How is chemotherapy given?

- One way is to take pills.
- Another way is through a needle that a nurse puts in a vein.
- Some women get both.

### How long does chemotherapy last?

You take chemotherapy in cycles. For each cycle, you get chemotherapy for a set number of days or weeks. Then you stop for a set number of days or weeks. This starting and stopping goes on until you finish your treatment. Your doctor will tell you how many cycles you need.

### Where do I get chemotherapy?

Most women get chemotherapy in a doctor's office or clinic or at home. A few drugs must be given in the hospital. Women with some kinds of health problems may have to stay in the hospital for their treatments.

### Questions to ask your doctor before chemotherapy:

- Will I get chemotherapy through a needle or take pills?
- Where will I go for chemotherapy?
- What drugs will I take?
- What will this treatment do for me?
- Will I lose my hair?
- How long will I need to take chemotherapy?

## **How will chemotherapy make me feel?**

Here are some things that sometimes happen during chemotherapy. Ask your doctor if any of these things might happen to you.

- bruising or bleeding more easily than usual
- being more likely to get infections
- feeling weak or very tired
- losing your hair
- feeling sick to your stomach
- throwing up
- having diarrhea
- getting sores in your mouth

## **Talking to your doctor about chemotherapy**

Writing down your questions before you talk to the doctor can help you remember them. It may also help to bring a family member or friend with you.



## **How can I find out more about treatment for cervical cancer?**

- Call the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) at 1-800-642-8522, and ask to speak with a case manager. The call is free.
- or**
- Call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). The call is free.

