

Treating Cervical Cancer with Surgery

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

Surgery for cancer on the outside of the cervix.

If the cancer is only on the outside of the cervix, the doctor can remove only the cancer cells. There are several ways to do this.

- Remove the cells by cutting them off of the cervix.
- Remove the cells with a laser (a strong beam of light).
- Remove the cells by freezing them; this is called cryotherapy.
- Remove the cells by burning them; this is called cauterization.

Surgery for cancer cells that have gone deeper than the outside of the cervix.

- If the cancer has not spread from the cervix, the doctor may take out the cervix.
- If the cancer has spread from the cervix, the doctor may do a hysterectomy. This means taking out the uterus. Sometimes the ovaries and tubes are also removed.

Questions to ask your doctor before surgery.

- What kind of surgery will I have?
- Where will I have the surgery?
- Will I be awake or asleep?
- How will I feel after the surgery?
- If I have pain, how will you help me?
- When can I go back to doing the things I usually do?
- How will the surgery affect my sex life?
- Will I need other treatment after the surgery?



Talking to your doctor about treatment

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.

