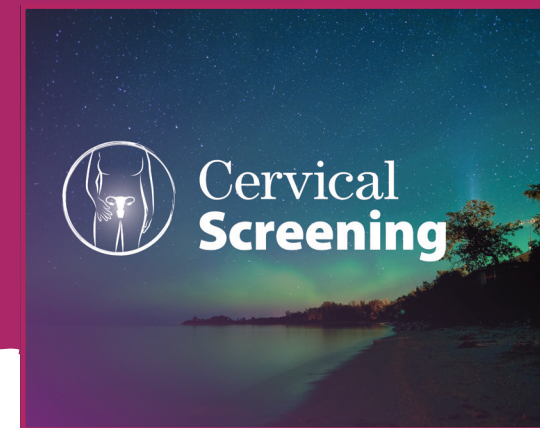




Cervical **Screening**

Cervical Screening



Screening

The Ontario Cervical Screening Program recommends that people should get screened if they:

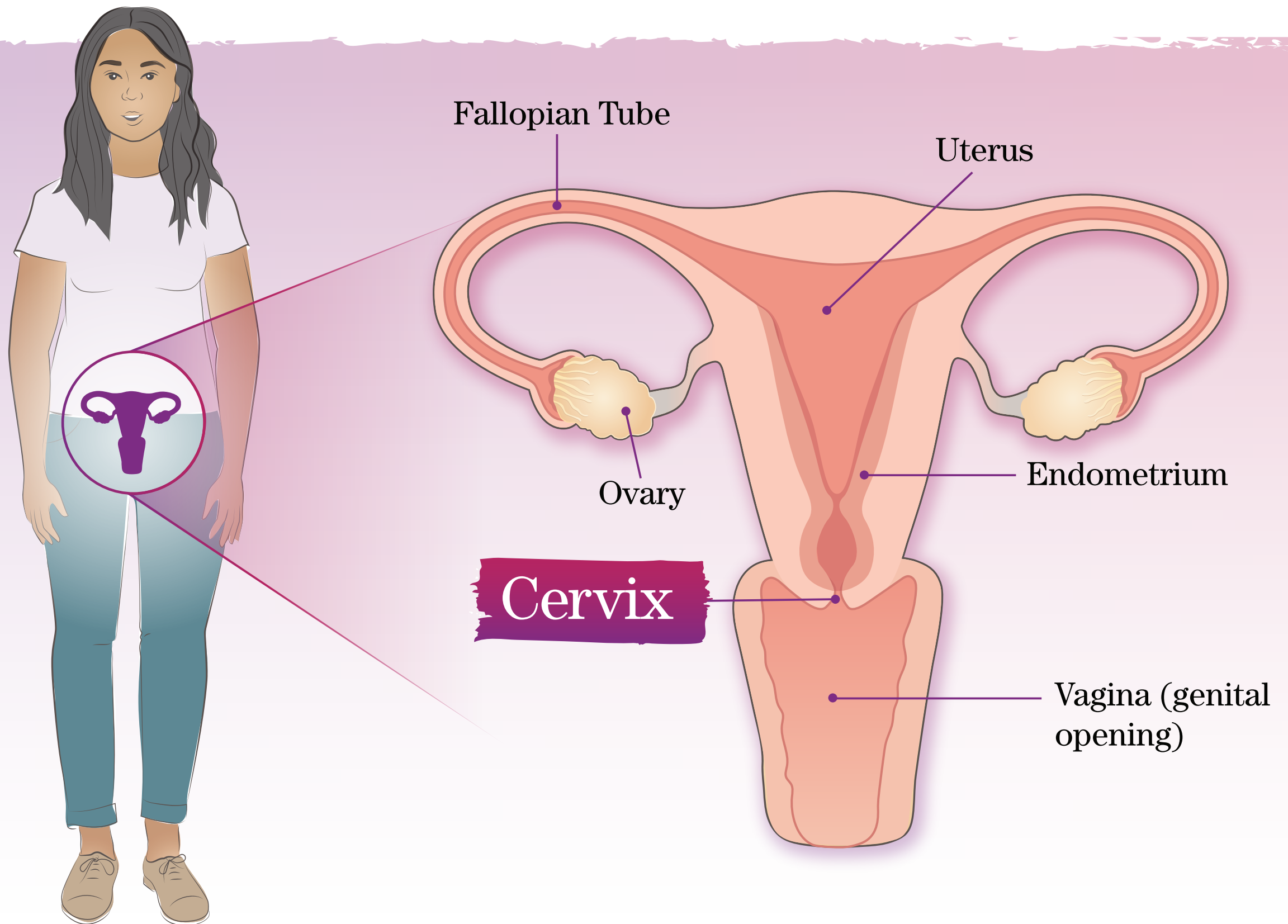
- Are at least 25 years old
- Are a woman, Two-Spirit person, transmasculine person or nonbinary person with a cervix
- Have ever had sexual contact with another person
- Do not have symptoms of cervical cancer, like different bleeding or discharge (clear or yellow fluid) from the vagina (genital opening)

Most people who qualify for cervical screening should get screened every 5 years, and can stop cervical screening after a negative screening test between ages 65 to 69. A person's health care provider can help them decide if they need to be screened after age 69.

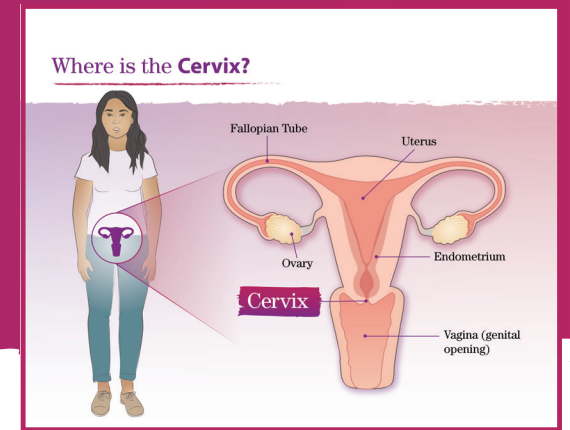


The Ontario Cervical Screening Program sends letters to people who qualify inviting them for a cervical screening test, telling them their test results and next steps after the test, and reminding them when to get screened again.

Where is the Cervix?



Where is the Cervix?

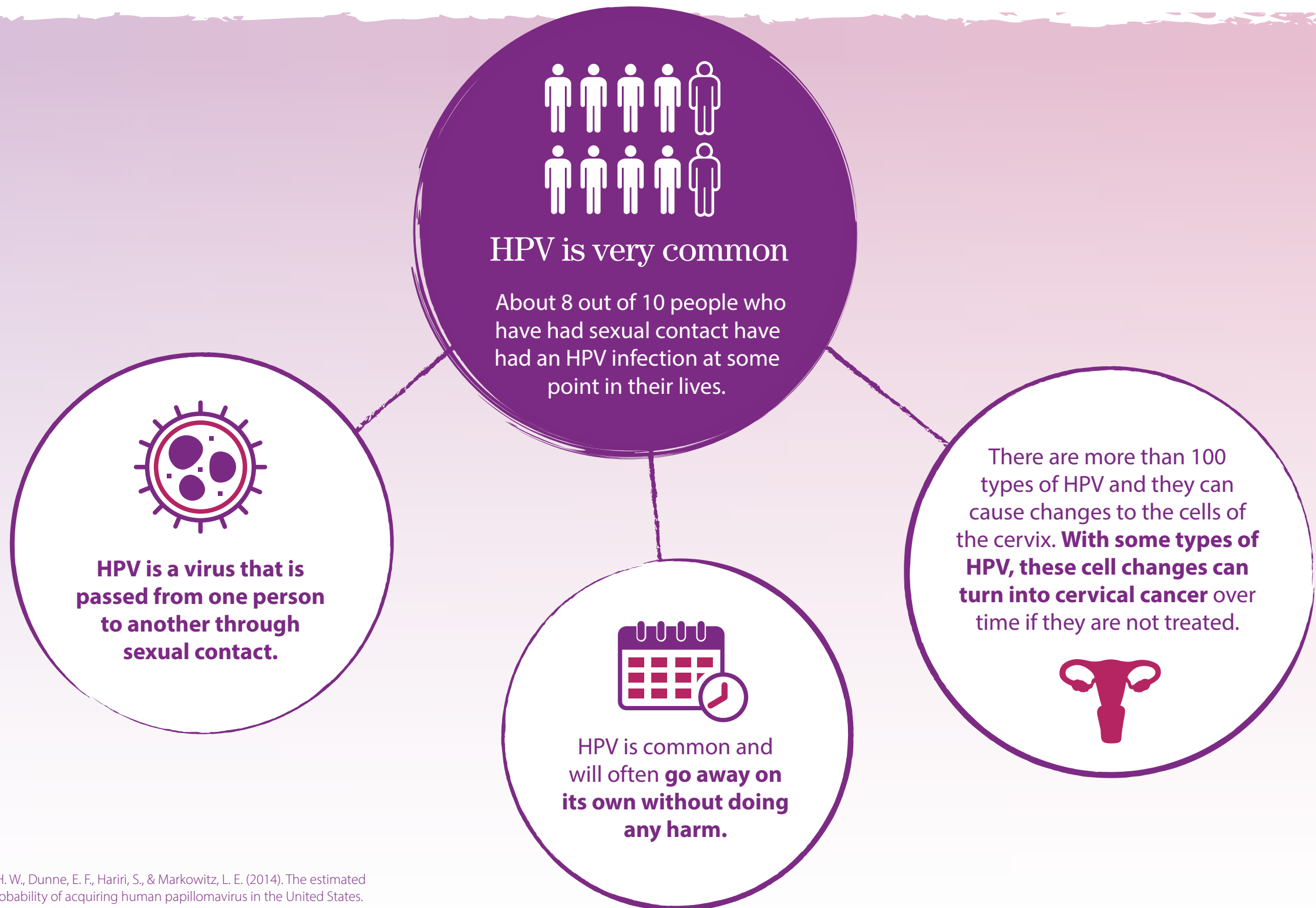


The cervix is a body part that connects the uterus (womb) to the vagina (genital opening).

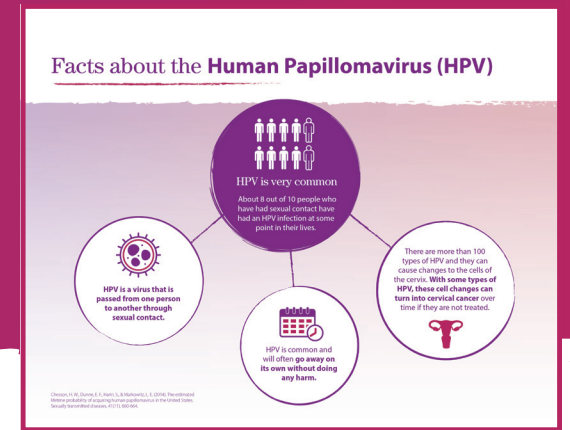


The uterus is where babies are carried during pregnancy.

Facts about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)



Facts about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)



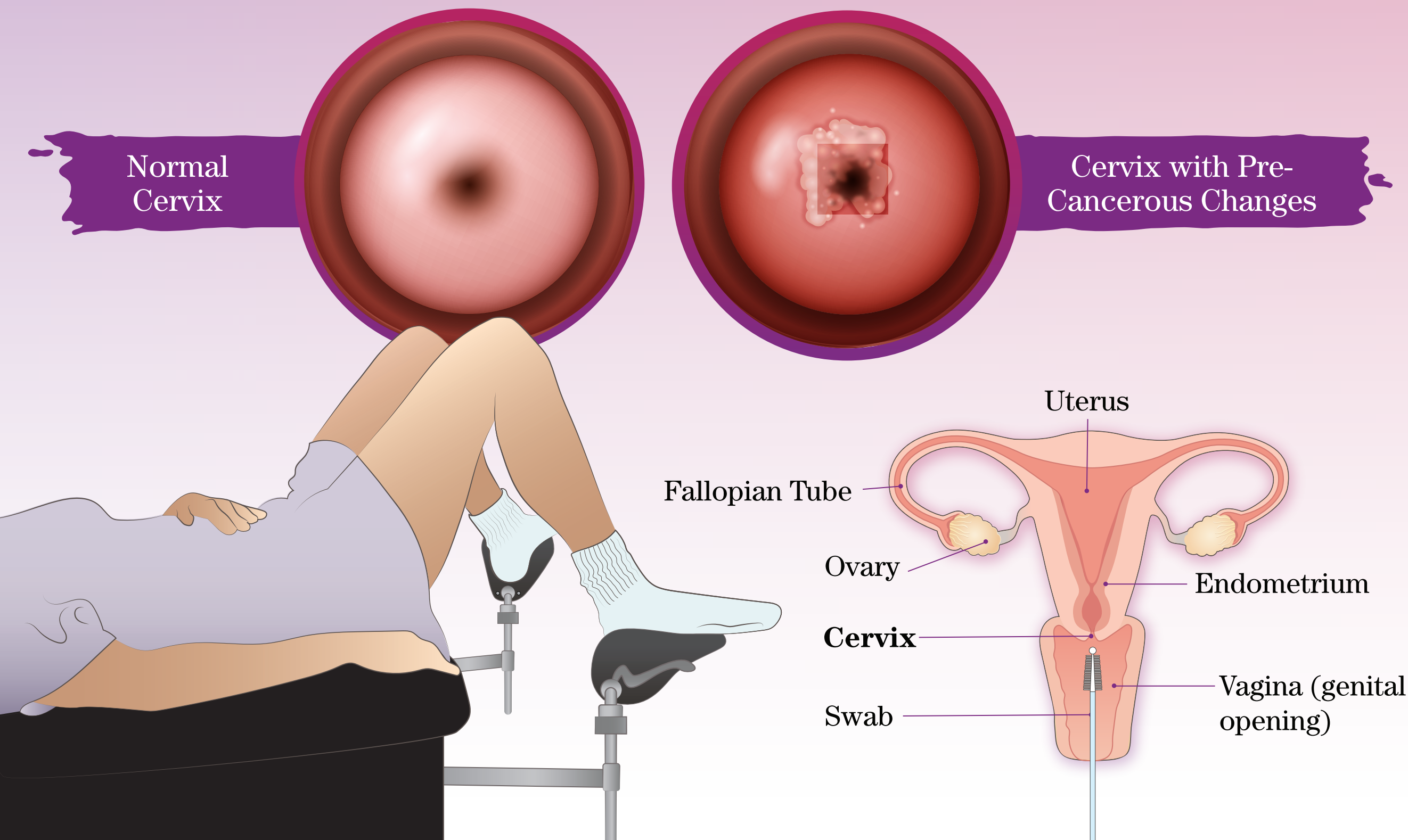
Cervical cancer is almost always caused by human papillomavirus (HPV).

HPV is a virus that is passed from one person to another through sexual contact. Sexual contact includes when someone has contact with another person's genitals (private parts). This contact can be with the hands, mouth or genitals.

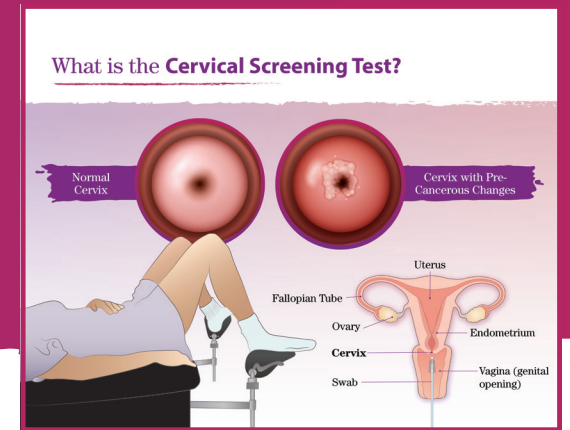
HPV is common and will often go away on its own without doing any harm.

There are more than 100 types of HPV and they can cause changes to the cells of the cervix. With **some** types of HPV, these cell changes can turn into cervical cancer over time if they are not treated.

What is the Cervical Screening Test?



What is the Cervical Screening Test?



About the Test

The cervical screening test checks for types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that can sometimes cause cervical cancer. It also checks for cell changes in the cervix caused by these types of HPV. The test does **not** check for other types of HPV.

The cervical screening test feels like getting a Pap test. A health care provider will use a small, soft brush to take cells from the cervix so the lab can test the cells for types of HPV and cell changes. The person doing your test can try to make the test as comfortable as possible for you.

The sample is sent to a lab where the cells are tested for types of HPV and cell changes.

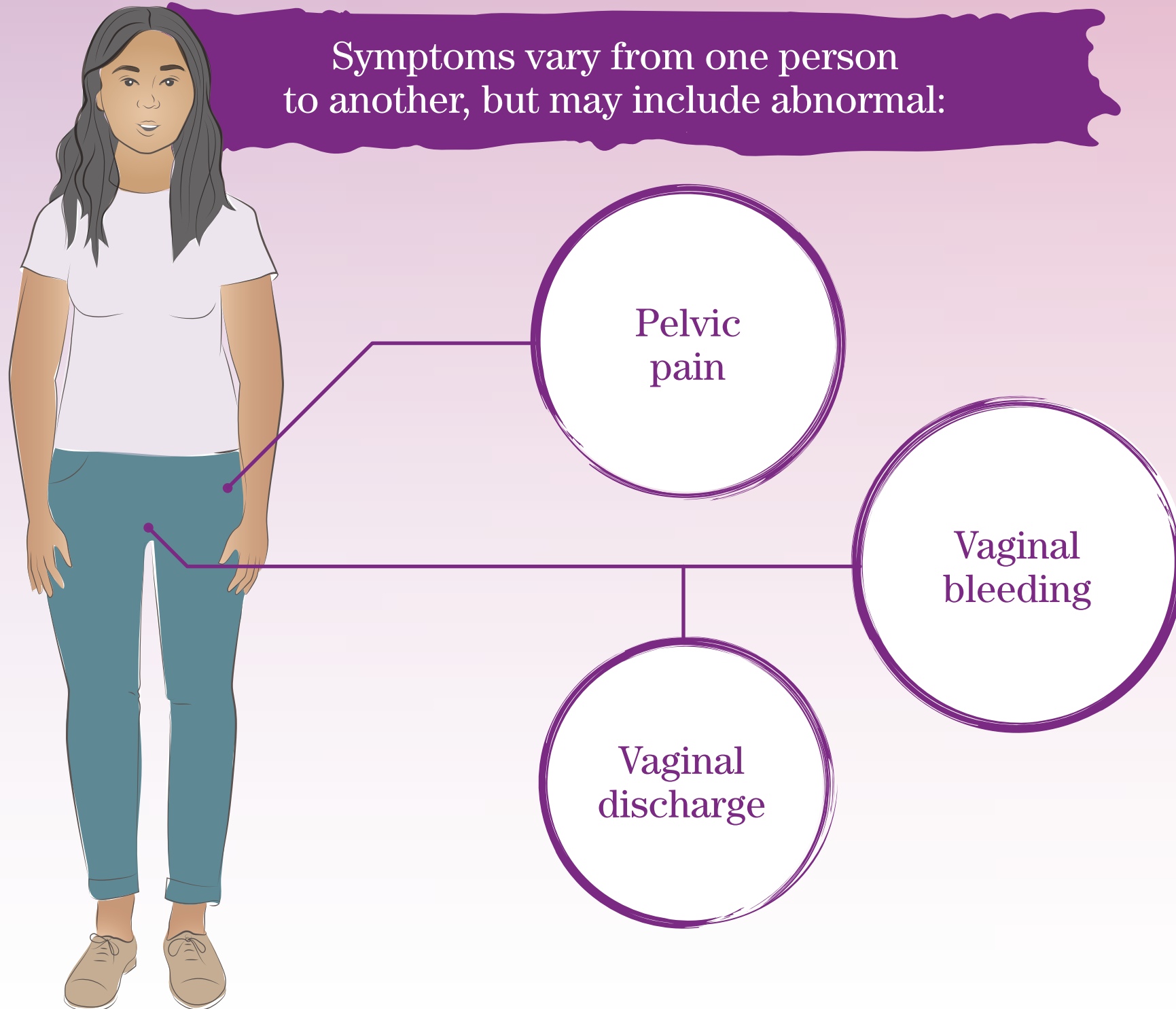


Regular screening with the cervical screening test is the best way to lower your chance of getting cervical cancer.

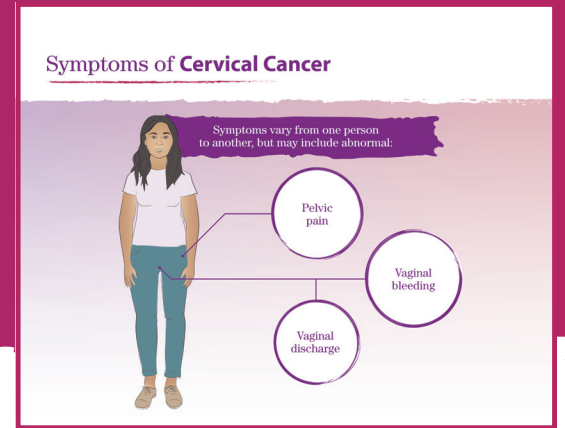
Be sure to go for regular cervical screening tests and for more testing after an abnormal test result, if needed.

Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

Symptoms vary from one person to another, but may include abnormal:



Symptoms of Cervical Cancer



Symptoms

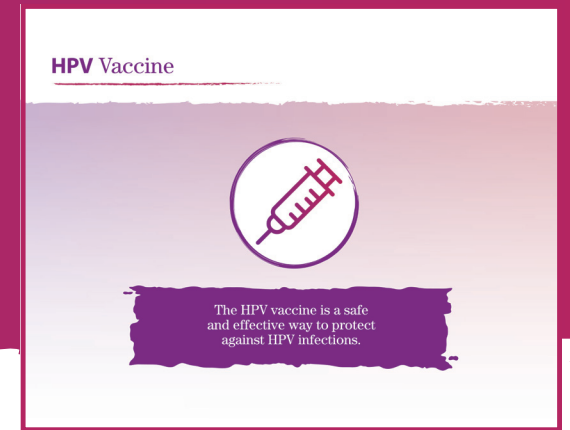
- Bleeding between periods or after sex
- Pelvic pain while resting or during sex
- Changes in vaginal discharge or smell; discharge could be watery or red
- Vaginal bleeding for long periods of time; bleeding for more than 2 weeks should be looked at
- If you have any vaginal bleeding when you are menopausal (i.e., when your monthly periods stop), see your health care provider

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine



The HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against HPV infections.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine



The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against HPV infections.

HPV vaccination is strongly recommended for all people 9-26 years of age. People 27 years of age and older may also benefit from being vaccinated for HPV and should talk with their health care provider to see if vaccination is right for them.

In the past, it was recommended that only girls and women be vaccinated, but the research has changed, and it is now recommended that all children be vaccinated.



If you have questions about whether the HPV vaccine is right for you, talk to your health care provider, sexual health clinic, or a public health unit.

Even after you receive an HPV vaccine you still need regular cervical screening tests, as recommended by your health care provider.
