

## **Cervical Cancer: Its Modalities of Treatment**

Up to the present, some women may not still be aware of the realities of what cervical cancer is and that the condition may be detrimental. And because they do not have a full understanding of what the disease is all about, they prefer to go untreated.

When a definite diagnosis of cervical cancer has been made, prevention will not be in any way possible. However, metastasis or the spread of the cancer cells to other organs can be stopped and this is only possible through strict compliance with the treatment regimen.

Cervical cancer is something to be alarmed about because it is the growth of a malignant tumor located between the vaginal canal and the uterus. Furthermore, when malignancy is at its height, it may quickly progress to a more advanced stage called the Metastatic phase and can eventually cause fatal complications and ultimately, death.

Throughout the years, health experts and oncologists all over the world are trying to find the best treatment possible to treat this life-threatening disease. There have been a lot of innovations when it comes to treating this form of cancer, but the key to successful treatment is to find the most suitable treatment for each individual patient. Treatments may be more effective when done in combination.

Here are some of the most recommended cervical cancer treatments:

1. **Surgery.** This is most applicable for patients who are in the early stages of cancer. Most Gynecologists will most probably recommend radical hysterectomy which involves the surgical removal of a part of the vagina, bilateral pelvic lymph nodes and the parametrium. If and when there is no lesion found in the ovaries, they can be preserved. The advantage of surgery is that there is a great possibility of completely having the affected organs removed and fast recovery is expected. Other types of surgical techniques include the following:
  - a. **LEEP (Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure).** This involves the use of a wire loop to pass electrical currents to surgically cut off an organ or a part of the organ from the female reproductive system.
  - b. **Cryosurgery.** Cancerous and precancerous cells are effectively destroyed and removed by freezing them through this innovative procedure.
2. **Radiotherapy.** This type of treatment can be done in all stages of cervical cancer including the most advanced phases especially when patients can no longer tolerate surgical procedures. Radiotherapy is considered one of the best types of treatment; however, there are many complications or adverse effects that need immediate attention. Nevertheless, it can also bring successful effects when combined with other treatments like surgery.

**Chemotherapy.** This involves administering medications, and is best combined with radiotherapy to kill and destroy cancer cells. On the other hand, while chemotherapeutic agents are on the hunt for the abnormal cells, it may also affect the normal healthy cells of the body. And because all healthy cells are destroyed along with the target cells, the treatment can bring about a lot of side effects such as vomiting, body malaise, anorexia, alopecia, etc. But, biological immunotherapy has been developed by experts to at least boost the patient's immune system and prevent the said complications of chemotherapy.