

The Five (5) Signs That Could Mean You Have Cervical Cancer

Most women put themselves at risk because of refusing to undergo a Pap test; and most of them find out nearly too late that they have cervical cancer, and worst, it is already in the advanced stages. The early signs of cervical cancer may not always be very obvious which is why regular gynecological appointment and screening is a must especially for women who are sexually active.

Cervical cancer affects millions and millions of women all around the globe. It is a type of cancer that affects a woman's reproductive organ, particularly the cervix. This organ is located between the uterus and the vagina.

Most of the documented cases of cervical cancer are caused by what is known as the Human Papilloma Virus or the HPV. This virus can be contacted through sexual intercourse. Thousands of women suffer from abnormalities in the cervix because of this virus. Moreover, hundred thousands more are diagnosed to have cervical cancer.

A matter of fact is that the age group that is most affected by this type of life-threatening disease are those who are 35 years and under. Because of this, it is best to have women at the age of 25 be initially screened for cervical cancer even without experiencing any of the symptoms.

However, women have to watch out for early warning signs of cervical cancer. As the experts say, with early detection and prompt treatment, cure and being cancer-free is a great possibility.

- **Vaginal Bleeding**

In most cases of diagnosed cervical cancer patients, vaginal bleeding is the most common symptom. Women should be alarmed especially when they experience bleeding from the vagina after their sexual encounter. Aside from the normal menstrual cycle, vaginal bleeding is absolutely not normal. And, of course, it is very unusual to have bleeding episodes when women have already entered the menopausal stage.

- **Dyspareunia**

Pain and discomfort during the sexual intercourse is another abnormal thing and this is definitely a warning sign that a woman might already be having cervical cancer.

- **Foul-Smelling Vaginal Discharge**

It is normal for women to have some vaginal discharges, but what makes it abnormal is when the discharges have a very unpleasant odor, when it is more than usual and when the color becomes peculiar or strange.

- **Bowel and Bladder Habit Changes**

When other adjacent organs of the body like the bladder and the bowel are affected, other symptoms will start to arise. Some of the warning signs that should be watched out for is the presence of blood in the urine as well as loss of bladder control.

- **Loss of Appetite and Sudden Weight Loss**

When the cancer cells have spread to the gastro-intestinal tract, the patient with cervical cancer will experience anorexia or loss of appetite leading to generalized body weakness. And because the absorption of nutrients is also affected and bowel changes occur, a sudden weight

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loss would be the result. This is one of those symptoms that should be alarming already because it would already mean that the cancer cells have spread.