

# Cervical Cancer



National Cancer Control Programme  
Ministry of Health



# Global situation



- New cases

Ranks 4th among cancers in women worldwide

Global cases: 662,301 (2022)

Of which 85% are in underdeveloped countries

- Deaths

The 9th leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women

Cervical cancer deaths in 2022: 348,874

Of which 87% are in underdeveloped countries

# Reporting of new cervical cancer cases in Sri Lanka 2005 - 2021

According to 2021 data, cervical cancer is the 5th most common cancer among Sri Lankan women.

## Age-standardized rates of cervical cancer in Sri Lanka, 2005-2021

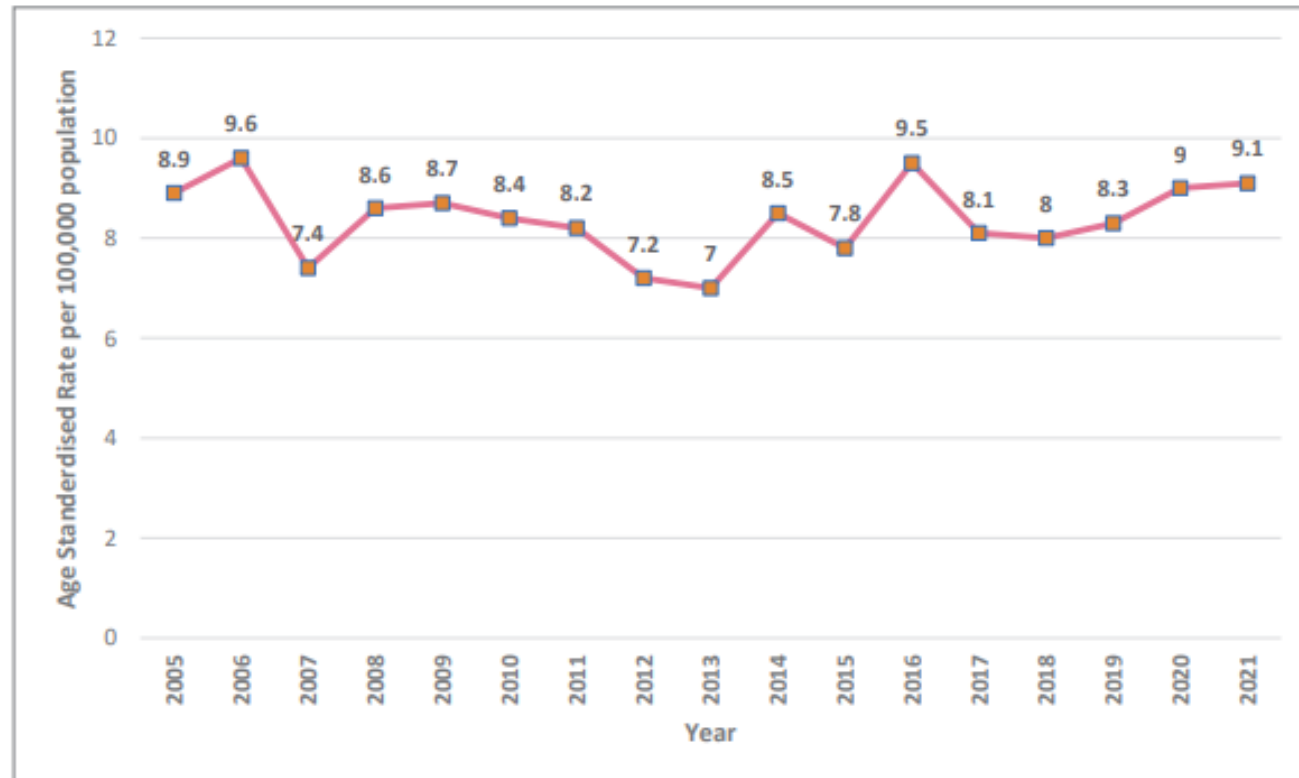
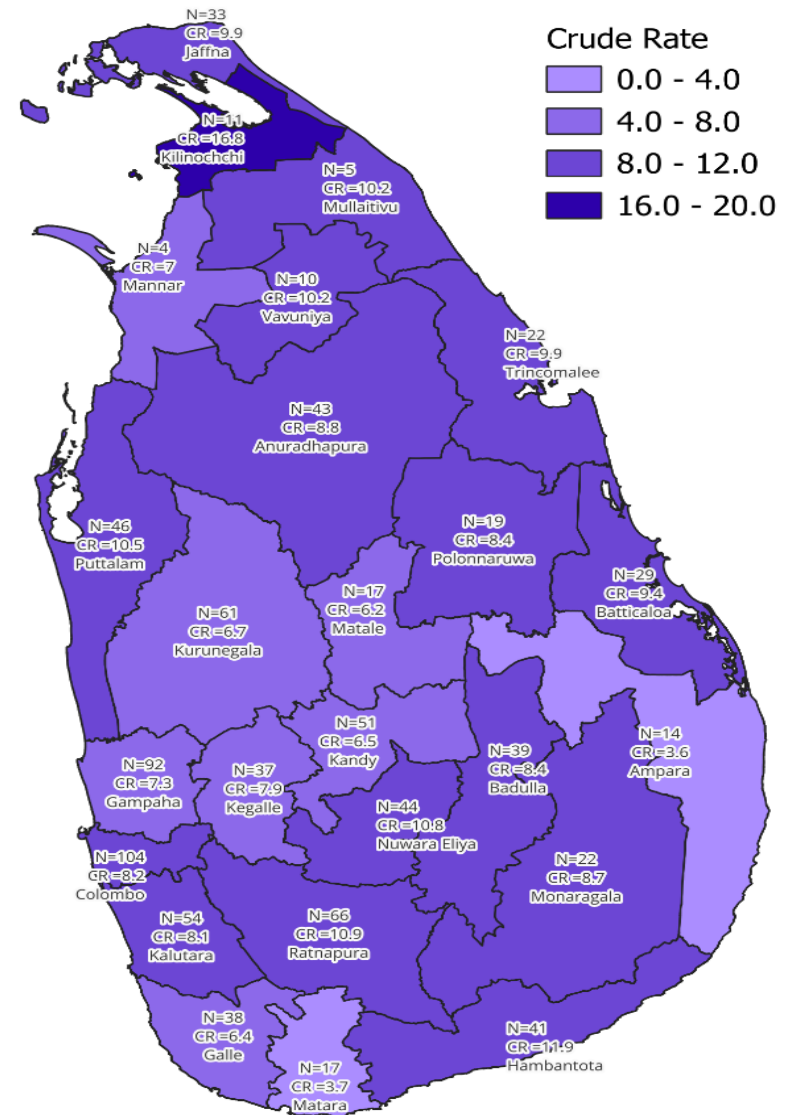


Figure 40: Age Standardized Incidence Rates of Cervical cancer in Sri Lanka, 2005-2021

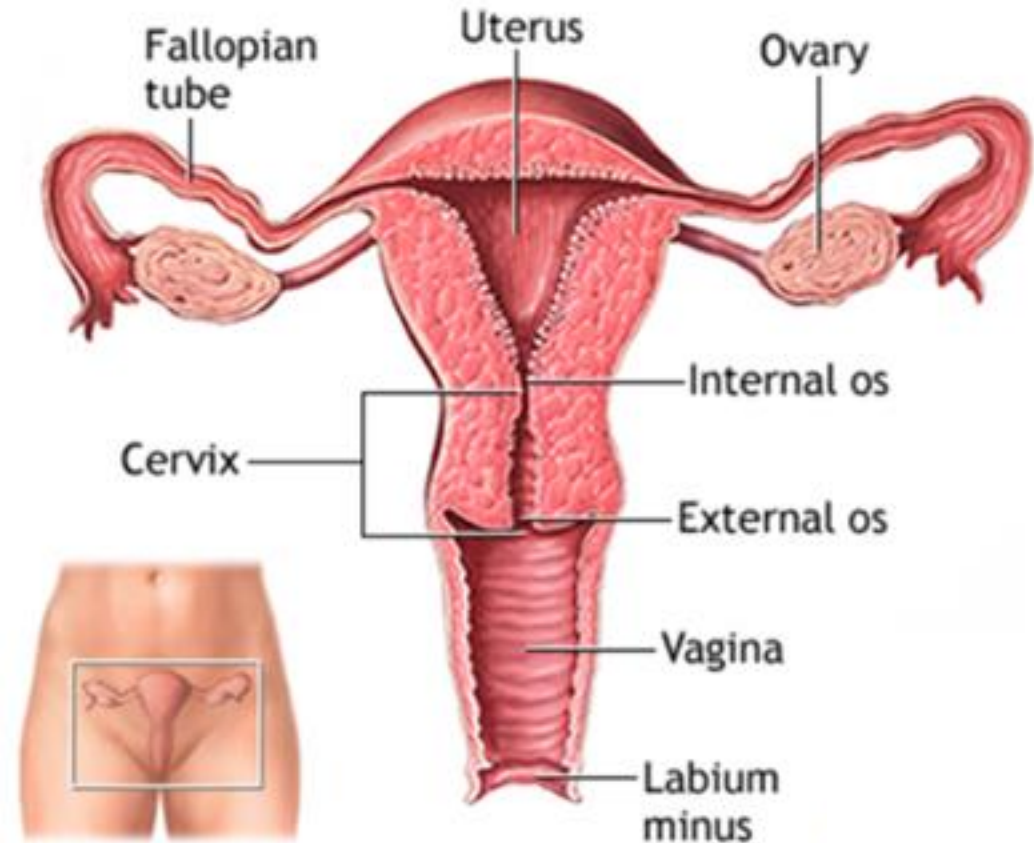


# Reporting of new cervical cancer cases in Sri Lanka - 2021

## Cervix uteri (Female)



# Structure of the uterus and cervix

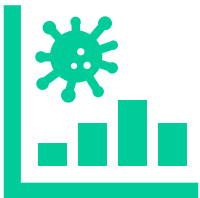


# Cervical cancer

Caused by  
HPV infection

## Sexually transmitted

- Usually no symptoms
- No treatment for HPV infection before symptoms
- Immune system clears most cases; some persist



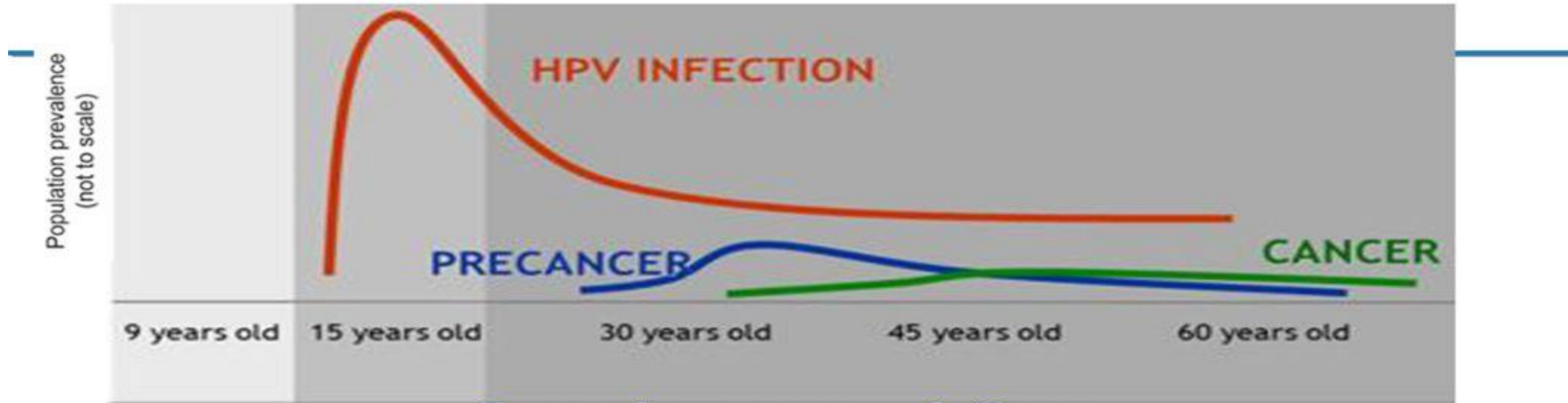
# Cervical cancer

HPV present in >99% of cervical cancers

- High risk types (16, 18) associated with cancer
- Low risk types are associated with genital warts
- All can cause abnormal Pap tests



# Natural History of Cervical Cancer



## Continuum of Care

**PREVENTION**

**Early detection  
Screening**

**Diagnosis/  
Treatment**

**Palliative Care**





# Risk factors

## Factors Favoring Infection

- Early commencement of sexual activity
- Multiple sexual partners
- Partner's high risk sexual activities
- Poor socio-economic status
- Poor hygiene
- Immunosuppression – primary or acquired

HPV infection is the necessary cause of cervical cancer



# Risk factors

## Factors Favoring Persistence

- High parity
- Tobacco smoking
- Immunosuppression
- Poor socio-economic status
- Poor nutritional status
- Prolonged usage of OCP



# Symptoms



Pre-cancerous conditions - usually do not show symptoms

Symptoms begin when pre-cancerous conditions develop into invasive cancer.



## Common symptoms



Bleeding between menstrual cycles

Bleeding after menopause

Bleeding after sexual intercourse

Abnormal bleeding from the vagina

Blood/discharge from the vagina

# Symptoms in advanced stage of cancer



- ❖ Anemia (due to excessive vaginal bleeding)
- ❖ Pain in pelvis, legs or back
- ❖ Issues related to Urinary system/ Renal Failure
- ❖ Vaginal contamination by urine, faeces due to fistula formation
- ❖ Weight loss
- ❖ Loss of appetite

# Control Strategies

- Prevention
- Early detection by screening
- Early diagnosis of symptomatic patients
- Treatment



# Control Strategies

- Prevention
  - Vaccination against HPV
  - Safe sexual practices
  - Avoid sex at young age
  - Avoid smoking
  - Healthy lifestyle



# HPV Vaccination

- Highly efficacious in preventing
  - Infection & precancerous cervical lesions caused by HPV 16 and 18
  - Anogenital warts – caused by HPV 6 and 11
- School based immunization programme for girls aged 10 – 11 years in Sri Lanka
- 2-dose schedule (0, 6-15 months)





# Cervical cancer screening in Sri Lanka

- Well Women Clinic Programme
  - Pap smear screening
- Married females at 35 years and 45 years of age & follow up
- Around 1000 Well Women Clinics through MOH & Primary Care setting
- Coordinated by Family Health Bureau
- HPV DNA testing : Expanding in Sri Lanka

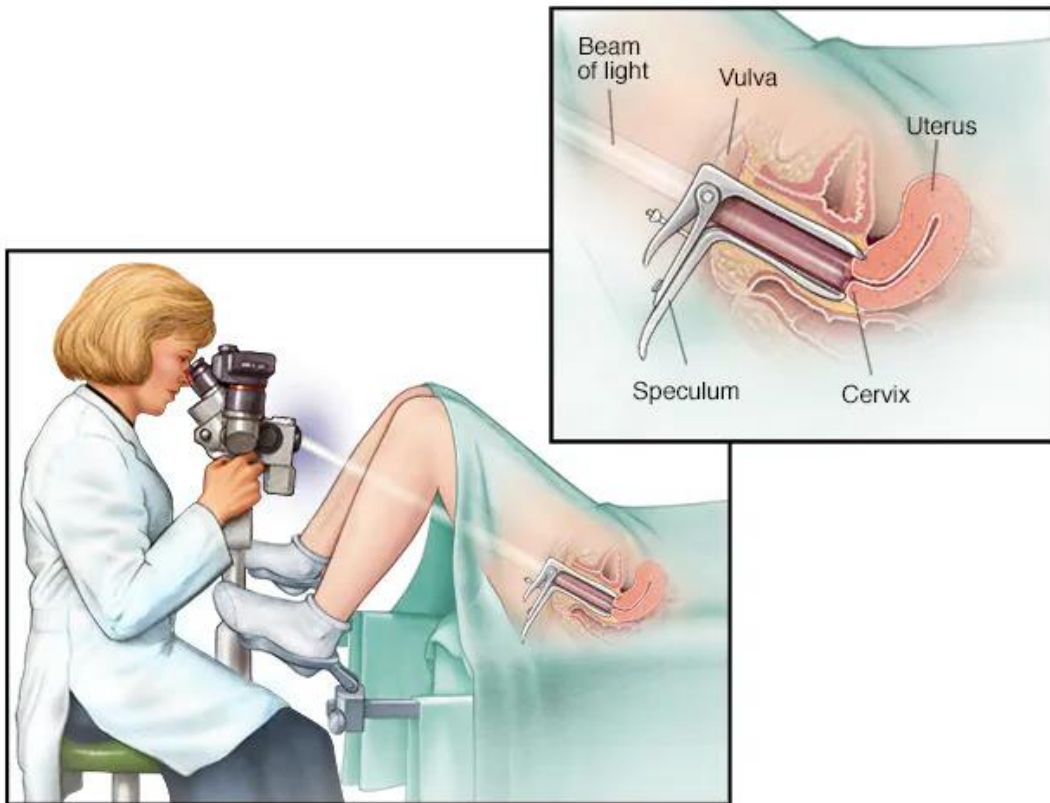


# HPV DNA test

- More Precise test
- Recently introduced and currently expanding in Sri Lanka
- If the HR-HPV DNA is negative, the patient can be referred for the routine review in 5 years in the presence of risk factors .
- If HPV DNA positive needs to do Pap smear.
- Positive HPV DNA and abnormal Pap smear needs Colposcopic examination

# Colposcopy

- Depending on PAP smear report some need to be referred for colposcopy
- Colposcopy is done by consultant gynecologists in Sri Lanka
- Colposcopy is performed to
  - Further investigate the cervical lesions
  - Treat some minor conditions



# Colposcopy centres in Sri Lanka (2024)





Cervical cancer  
elimination strategy

**WHO launched the Global  
Strategy to Accelerate the  
Elimination of Cervical Cancer**



# Interim targets of cervical cancer elimination to achieved by 2030

- 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15
- 70% of women screened\* by the age of 35, and again by the age of 45  
(\* Should be a quality test)
- 90% of women identified with cervical disease receive treatment





**National Cancer Control Programme  
Ministry of Health and Mass Media**

*Thank you*



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