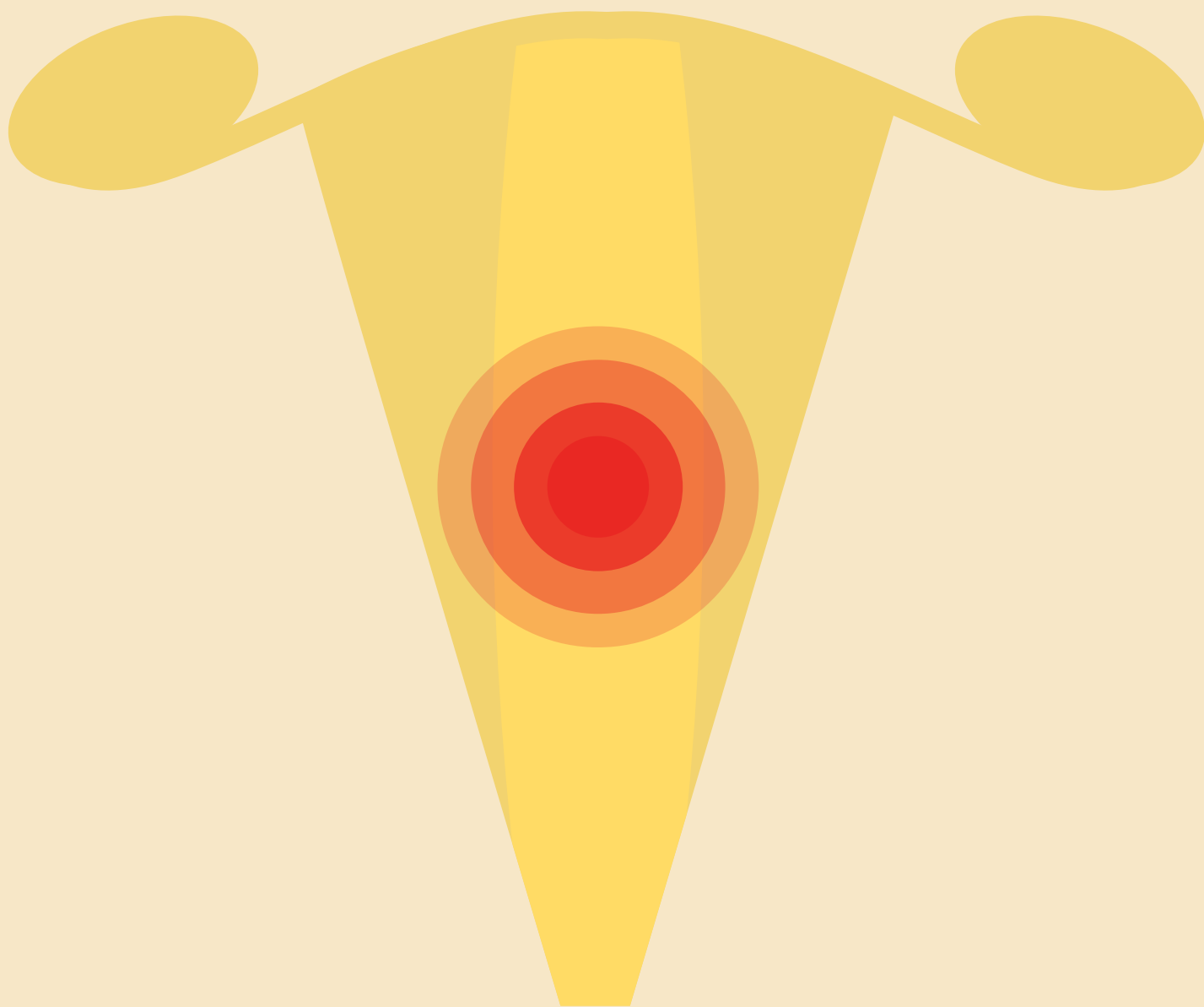


Cervical Cancer Prevention And Early Detection Programme



What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is a tumour that develops in the uterus.

This tumour grows slowly, and doesn't produce any **symptoms** at the beginning.

The earlier a tumour is found, the easier it is to treat.

Human papillomavirus, which is also called HPV, is the leading cause of cervical cancer.

HPV infection is a **sexually transmitted infection** that usually produces no symptoms and goes away on its own.

But if the infection does not go away, you could have cervical cancer.



Early detection

is finding a disease before symptoms occur.

Symptom

is a change in the body that indicates we have a disease.

Sexually transmitted infection

is an infection that is transmitted when you have sexual contact with an infected person.

Can cervical cancer be prevented?

HPV infection is spread through sexual contact.

To try to prevent cancer:

- You can avoid HPV infection by using a **prophylactic**.
- You can get the HPV vaccine.
- You can take part in this Programme.

If you take part in this Programme

You can have only the **cervical cytology** done

or have a cervical cytology and a test done to find out whether you have HPV.

Precancerous lesions as well as cancers can be found through these tests before they grow too large.

Prophylactic

means the same thing as condom.



Cervical cytology

is a test to examine cells from the uterine cervix.

Precancerous lesions

are changes in cells before cancer occurs.

Which women can take part in this Programme?

Women who meet the criteria below can take part in this Programme:

- aged 25–64 years,
- living in Castile-Leon,
- have engaged in sexual activity

Which women cannot take part in this Programme?

This Programme is not open to women who:

- Have never engaged in sexual activity.
- Do not have a uterus or uterine cervix.
- Experience discomfort in the genital area (pain, itching, burning, bleeding, etc.).

If you experience any of the above, you should pay a visit to your doctor so that they can assess your symptoms.

Once these symptoms go away, you can take part in the Programme.

Where are the tests done?

The tests are done at your Health Centre.

You'll get information on when and where the tests are done at your Health Centre.

What results does the Programme provide us with?

Test results can be negative or positive.

- When the test results are negative or doubtful, you can remain in the Programme so you can have the tests done again after a certain time when your doctor tells you to.
- When the results are positive you have to have other tests done, to find out whether you have precancerous lesions or cervical cancer.

How to get ready for your test

You have to go 12–16 days after starting your period.

You should not:

- Go during your period.
- Use vaginal creams or tablets during the preceding 5 days.
- Engage in sexual activity during the preceding 24 hours.
- Place water inside the vagina that morning to wash it.

You should be calm and

wear comfortable clothing that it is easy to put on and take off.

Vaginal tablets

are bullet-shaped medication that are inserted into the vagina.