



The Global Consortium of Women to End Cervical Cancer



Creating a Legacy of a World without Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer, a leading cause of death among women around the world, can be eliminated! New combinations of screening and vaccination offer the solution to ending suffering and deaths from this disease.

No other cancer has such a clearly understood cause, as well as the available technologies to help prevent it.



We cannot let women continue to suffer or die from this preventable disease. The opportunity is here to create a legacy for future generations of a world without cervical cancer.

How important is cervical cancer?

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer among women. In many developing economies, this disease is the most common cancer affecting women.

Who gets cervical cancer?

Women of any age can develop cervical cancer. However, it frequently strikes – and sometimes kills — women when they are relatively young, in their mid-to-late 40s.



What causes cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is caused by specific types of a very common virus – the human papillomavirus, or HPV. Most people will get HPV at some point during their lives. Women who have HPV but do not have cervical cancer usually do not have symptoms.

Do all women with HPV get cervical cancer?

No. For most women, HPV infections are temporary and harmless. But some women will develop a persistent HPV infection; these women are at greatest risk of developing cervical cancer.

Can cervical cancer be prevented?

Yes! Pap tests have successfully reduced cervical cancer rates in countries with well-established screening programs; however, women still suffer and die from cervical cancer.

HPV testing and HPV vaccination make prevention of cervical cancer a reality.

What is HPV testing?

HPV testing, which looks for HPV, identifies women at risk for cervical cancer. HPV testing enables countries to find more cases of cervical cancer, save more lives and better target healthcare resources to those women who need them.



No country is immune to the suffering caused by cervical cancer.



Screening and vaccination need to be used together to prevent this disease.

What is HPV vaccination?

HPV vaccination protects girls and young women from infection with the two types of HPV that cause 70% of all cervical cancers. Three doses are required over a 6-month period in order for the vaccination to be fully effective.

Why do we need both screening and vaccination?

HPV vaccination does not protect women who have already been infected with HPV. It also is unlikely to provide adequate protection from cervical cancer caused by high-risk HPV types not contained in the vaccines. Complacency toward screening could result in more cases of cervical cancer and greater preventative costs.

What is the global community doing to eliminate cervical cancer?

A worldwide movement is underway to incorporate HPV-based technologies into effective cervical cancer prevention programs to save lives, reduce suffering, and conserve healthcare dollars. By working together, governments, industry, foundations, and global leaders can determine the best application for HPV technologies in their respective countries and make HPV testing and HPV vaccination available, affordable, and accessible to all women.

Developing Economies

New HPV tests that are fast, inexpensive, durable, and accurate can greatly improve early detection of cervical disease in communities with limited resources. Ongoing efforts to produce an inexpensive, single-dose vaccine that is accessible to everyone also are underway. When these technologies are combined with programs offering immediate treatment, thousands of girls and women could potentially be saved from cervical cancer every year.

Industrialized Economies

In industrialized economies, integrating HPV testing into existing screening programs and adding HPV vaccination will improve prevention efforts while providing a cost-effective solution to preventing cervical cancer.



Governments need to provide access to HPV testing and HPV vaccination in order to help eliminate cervical cancer.





Education of girls and women worldwide is essential to eradicating cervical cancer.

What can women do in their countries?

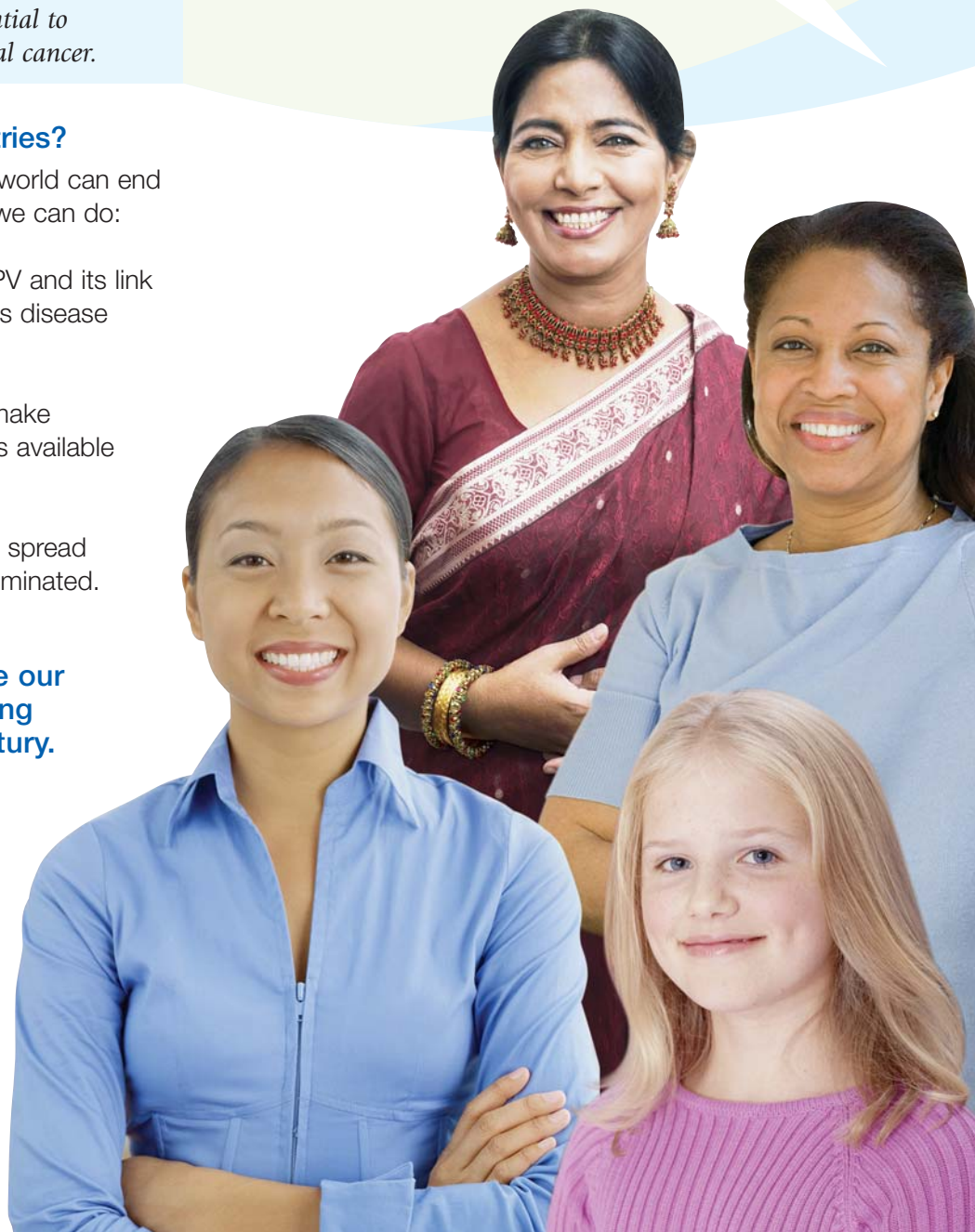
By working together, women around the world can end cervical cancer. There are several things we can do:

- **We can educate each other** about HPV and its link to cervical cancer, and prevention of this disease through screening and vaccination.
- **We can encourage governments** to make affordable, accessible HPV technologies available to all girls and women.
- **We can inform the media** so they can spread the word that cervical cancer can be eliminated.

Eliminating cervical cancer can be our most significant legacy in improving global women's health in this century.



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