



# Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Cervical Cancers



RT Answers **Facebook Live** Event: January 28, 7:30 pm ET/4:30 pm PT



**Jenna Kahn, MD**  
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Loyola University  
Medical Center



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UC San Diego Health

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## Format for Tonight

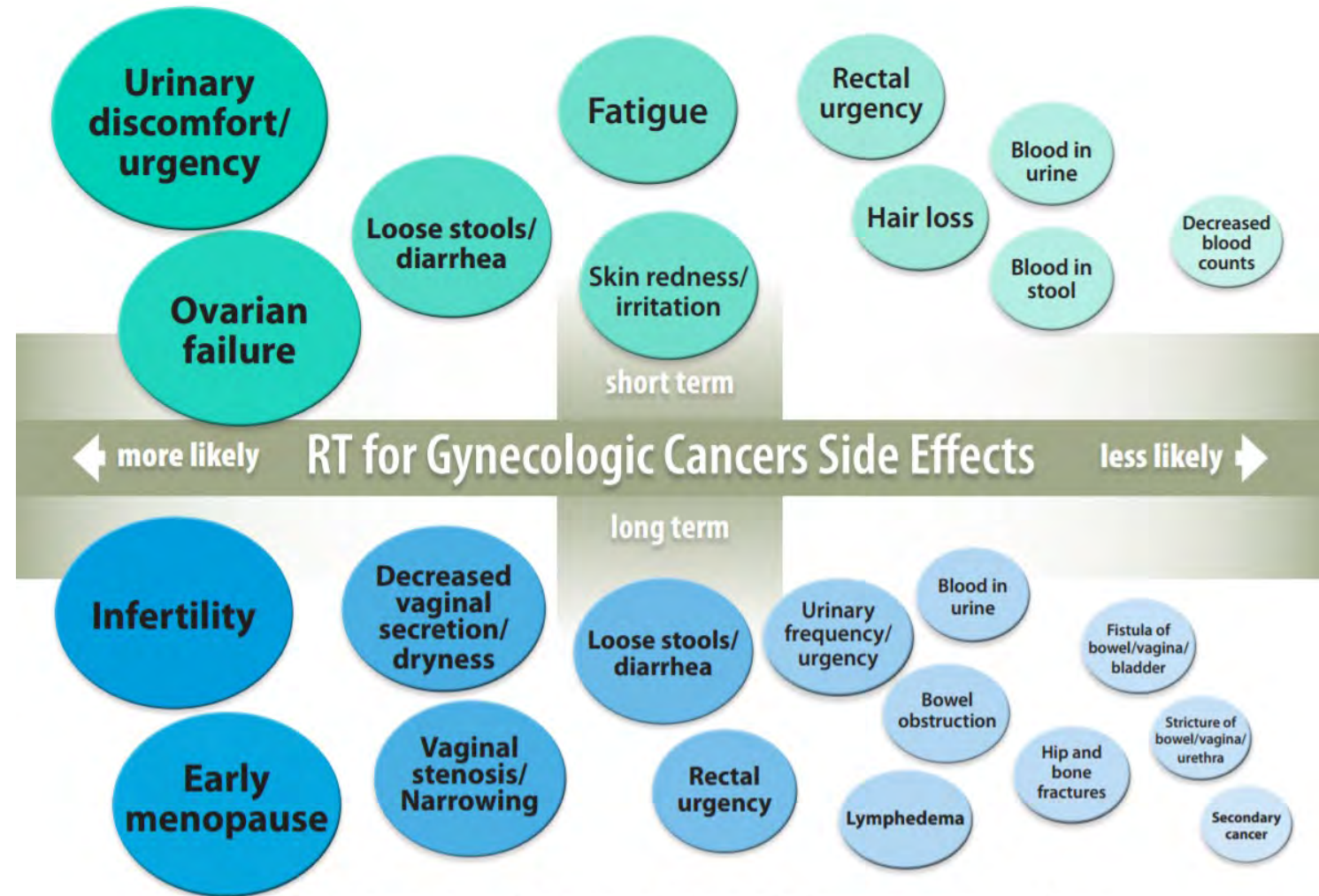
- *Panelists answer prepared questions*
- *Ask questions in the Facebook chat*
- *Recording will be available online*



# Radiation Therapy for Gynecologic Cancers



Gynecologic cancers include malignancies of the female genital tract involving the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes or ovaries. According to the American Cancer Society, 109,000 women will be diagnosed with some form of gynecologic cancer this year. Cancers of the uterus and cervix are the most common gynecologic cancers treated with radiation and account for 75,050 new cases each year. Widespread screening with the Pap test allows doctors to find pre-cancerous changes in the cervix and vagina early.



*\*Larger bubbles show higher likelihood of occurrence. This list doesn't represent all of the possible side effects. Please talk to your doctors about your specific diagnosis.*



## Gynecologic Cancers


[Treatment Types](#) | [Side Effects](#) | [Caring for Yourself](#) | [Resources](#) | [What to Expect](#) | [Latest Research](#)

Gynecologic cancers include malignancies of the female genital tract involving the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes or ovaries. According to the American Cancer Society, 113,520 women in 2020 will be diagnosed with some form of gynecologic cancer. Cancers of the uterus, cervix and ovary are most common. They account for 101,200 new cases each year. Widespread screening with the Pap test has allowed doctors to find pre-cancerous changes in the cervix and vagina. This has helped catch some invasive cancers early.


### FIND A RADIATION ONCOLOGIST



## RTAnswers.org

SELECT A CANCER TYPE 

SEARCH RTANSWERS 

FIND A RADIATION ONCOLOGIST 

City

--- Choose A State --- 

--- Choose A Specialty --- 

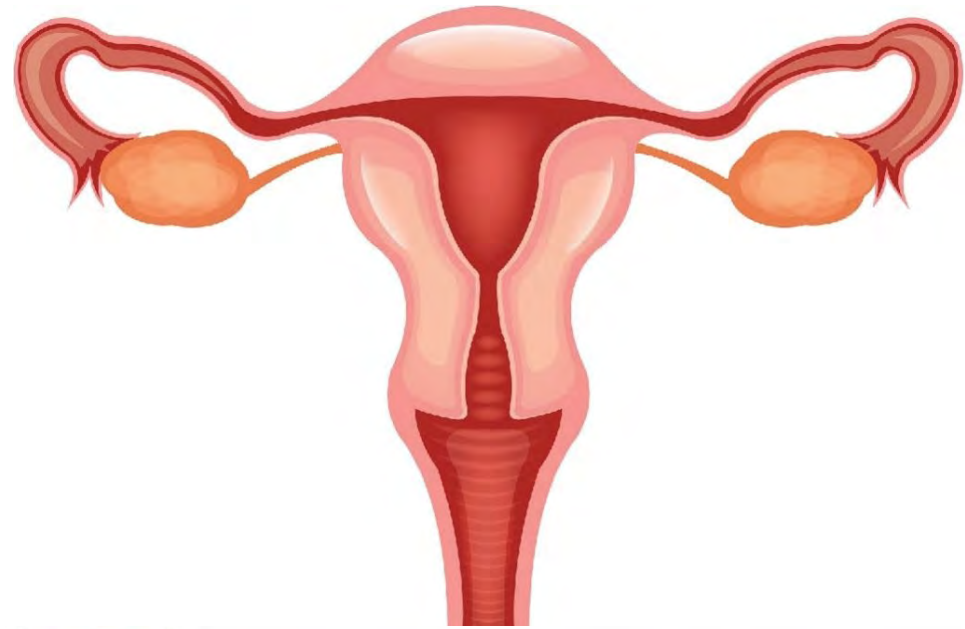
ADVANCED SEARCH

SEARCH



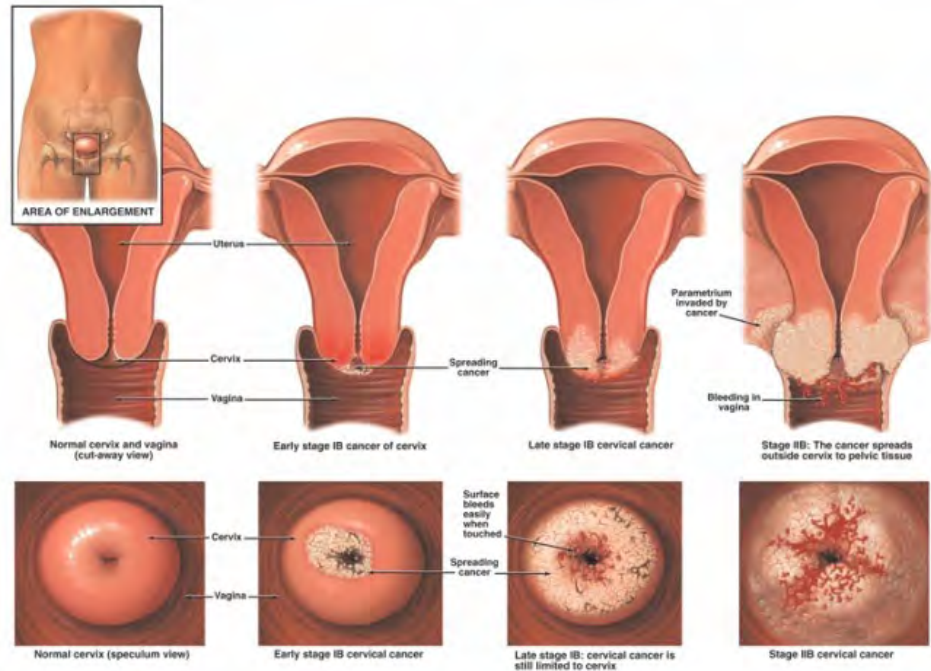
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# Diagnosis of Cervical Cancer

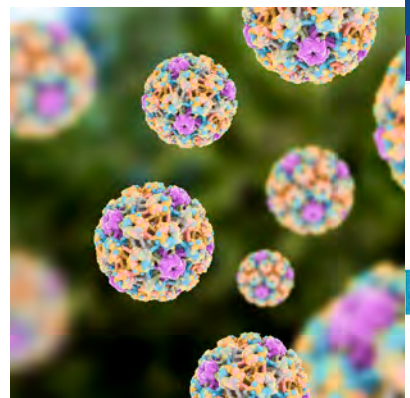


# Diagnosis of Cervical Cancer

What is Cervical Cancer?







# [ 6 REASONS TO GET HPV VACCINE FOR YOUR CHILD ]

**1** HPV is a common virus that infects men and women

**2** HPV vaccination works

80% of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime

Most HPV infections will go away on their own. Infections that don't go away can cause precancers and cancers.

↓ 71% Infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 71 percent among teen girls.

**3** HPV vaccination prevents cancer

29,000 More than 29,000 cases of cancers each year could be prevented with HPV vaccination.

Same as the average attendance for a baseball game.

**4** Preventing cancer is better than treating cancer

HPV infections can cause many types of cancer, but there is only cervical cancer screening.

HPV vaccination is prevention for the other types of cancer caused by HPV infections.

**5** Your child can get the HPV vaccine when they receive the other preteen vaccines

Three vaccines are recommended for 11-12 year olds to protect against the infections that can cause meningitis, HPV cancers, and whooping cough.

**6** Preventing cancer is easier than ever before

Data now shows 2 doses of HPV vaccine provide similar protection to 3 doses, when given before the 15th birthday.

**6 OUT OF 10** parents are choosing to get the HPV vaccine for their children.

[ Talk to your child's doctor about HPV cancer prevention at ages 11-12 ]



www.cdc.gov/HPV

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# Cervical Cancer Diagnosis

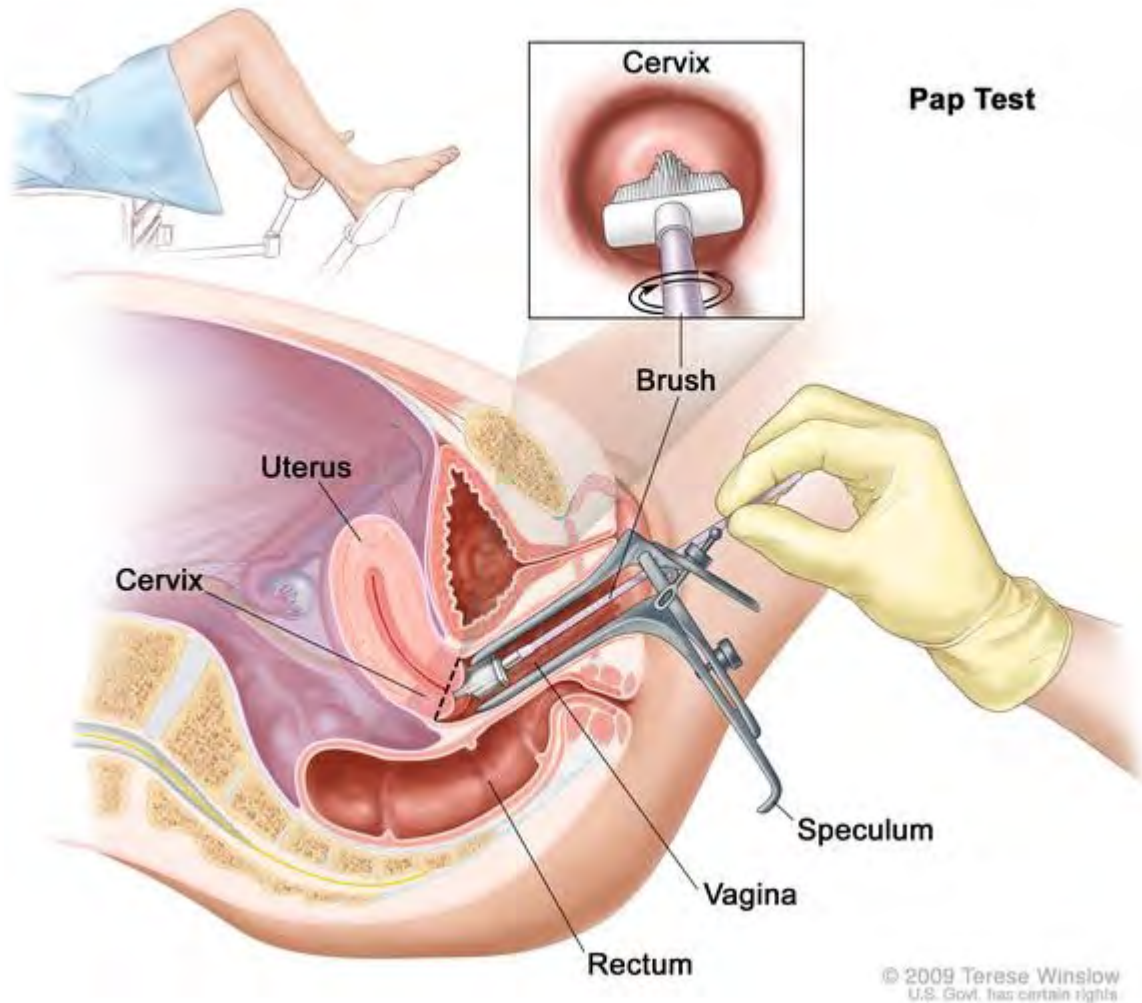
What is, and causes, HPV?

How do I get HPV?

What if I had the HPV vaccine?

Should I get the HPV vaccine?





# Cervical Cancer Diagnosis

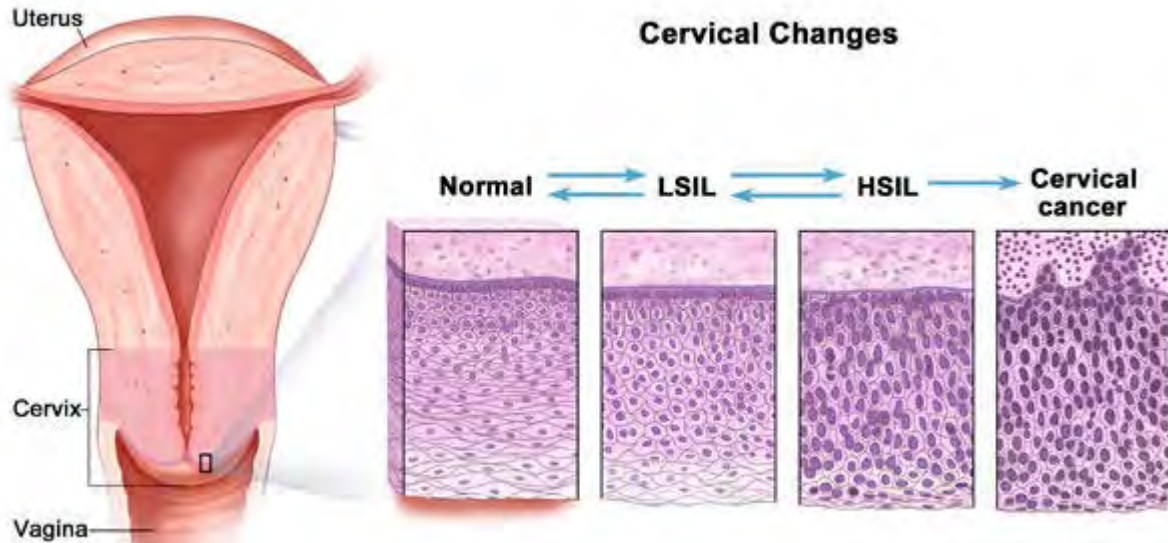
Is there any way to prevent cervical cancer?

How does screening work?



# Cervical Cancer Diagnosis

If I have an abnormal Pap test, what are the next steps?



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# Audience Questions & Additional Discussion





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# Curative Treatment of Cervical Cancer



# Curative Treatment

Which doctors are involved with patients with Cervical Cancer?

Which types of treatments does each offer?

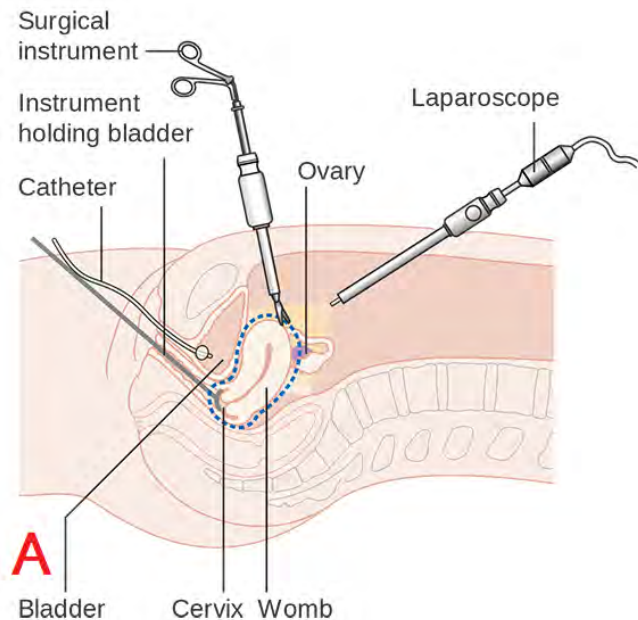




# Curative Treatment

What are the different types of surgical procedures that may be offered?

Is laparoscopic surgery any better than standard surgical procedures for cervical cancer?







# Curative Treatment

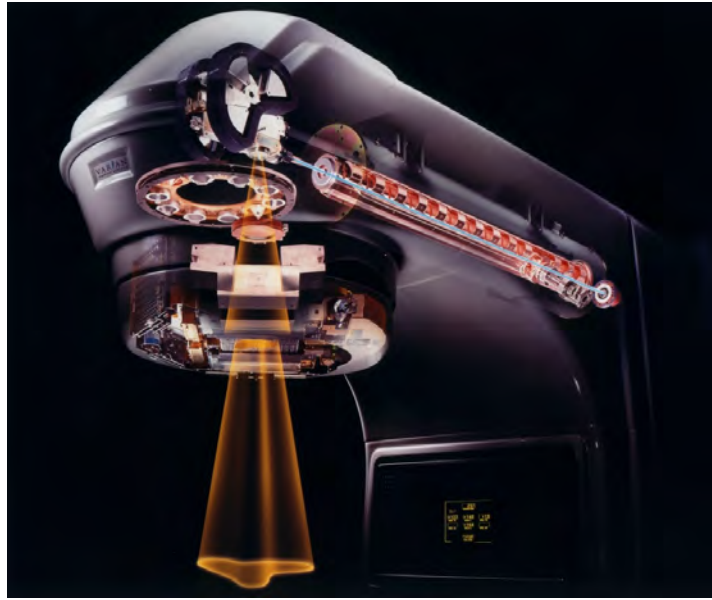
What if I want to preserve fertility?



# Curative Treatment

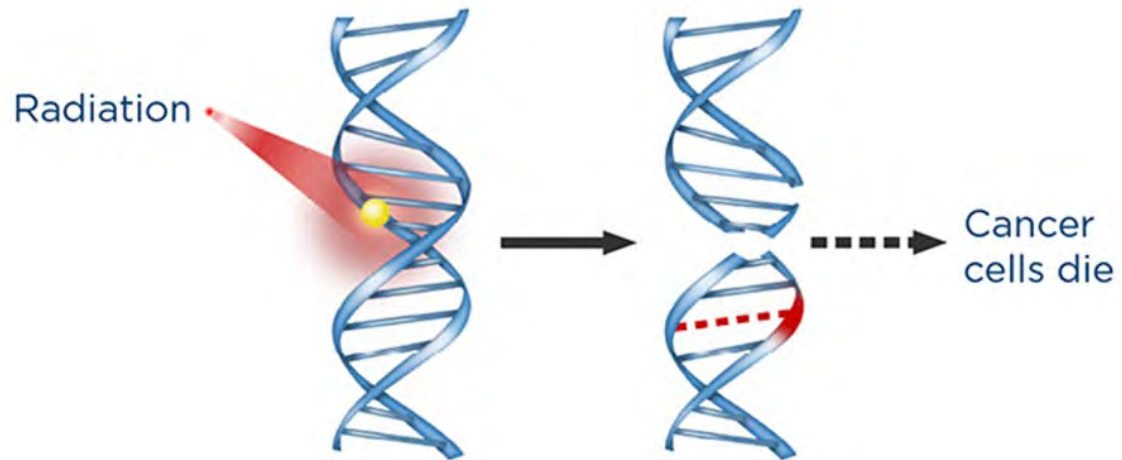
Why might a patient not want surgery to treat their cervical cancer? What are the risks?

Why are some patients not candidates for surgery?

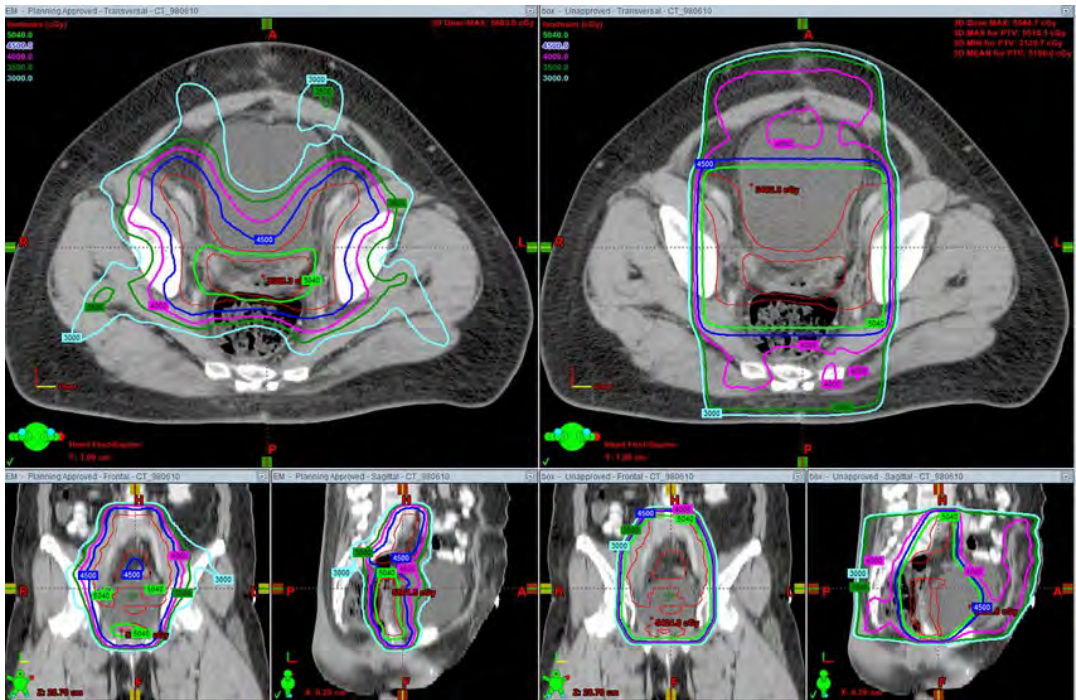


# Curative Treatment

How does radiation therapy work?

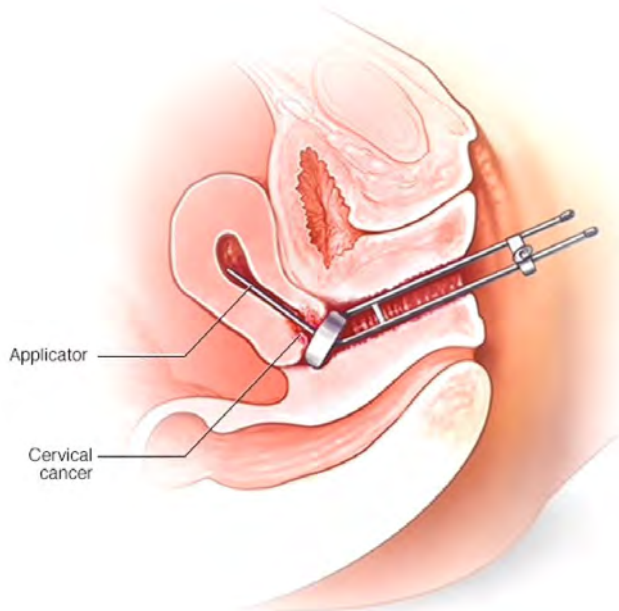


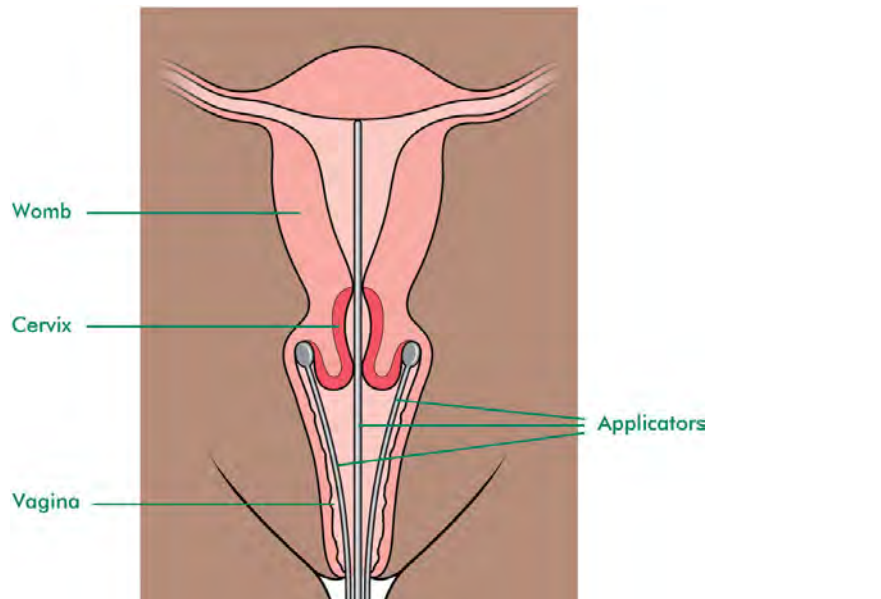




# Curative Treatment

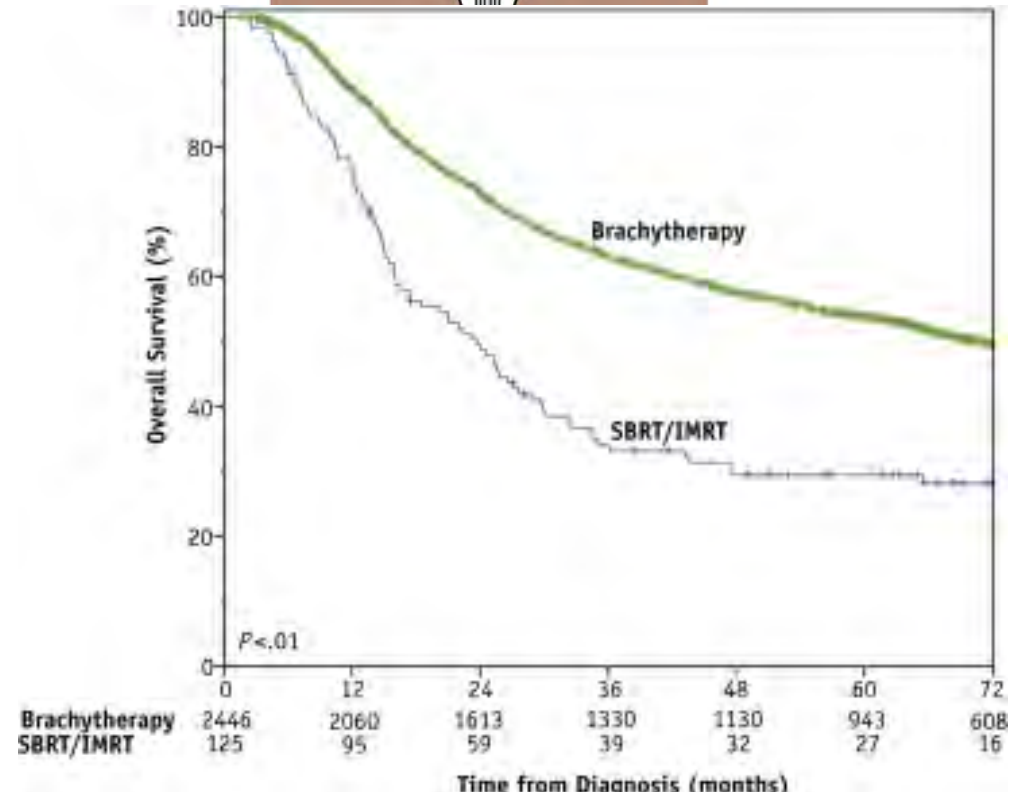
What are some of the different types of radiation therapy that may be offered?

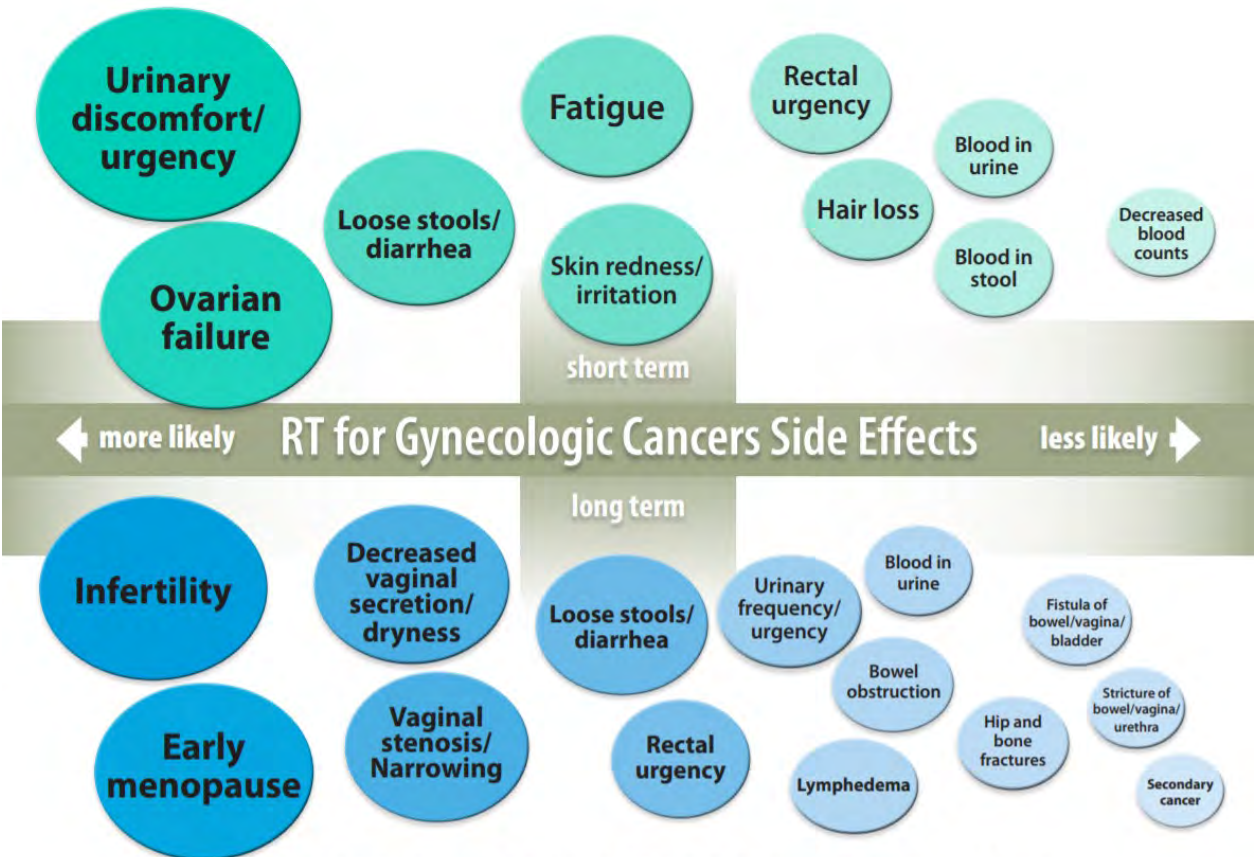




# Curative Treatment

What is brachytherapy and why is it important for cervical cancer?

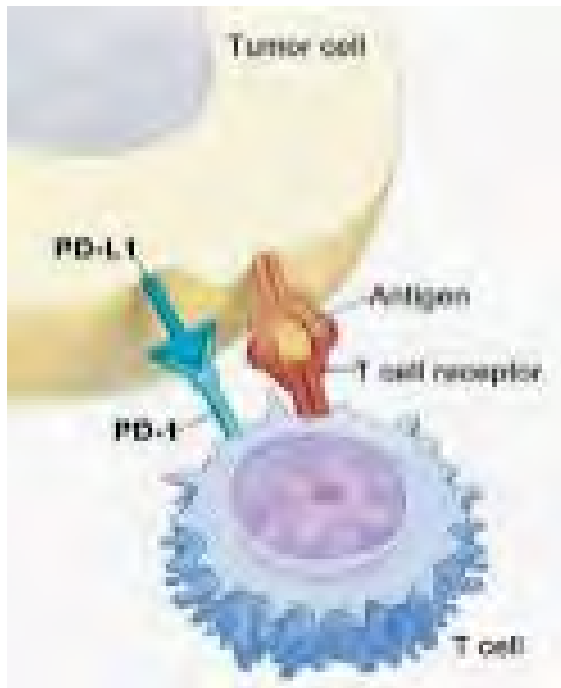




\*Larger bubbles show higher likelihood of occurrence. This list doesn't represent all of the possible side effects. Please talk to your doctors about your specific diagnosis.

# Curative Treatment

What are types of side effects that are common with radiation therapy?



# Curative Treatment

How are chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy used alongside radiation therapy to help cure patients?





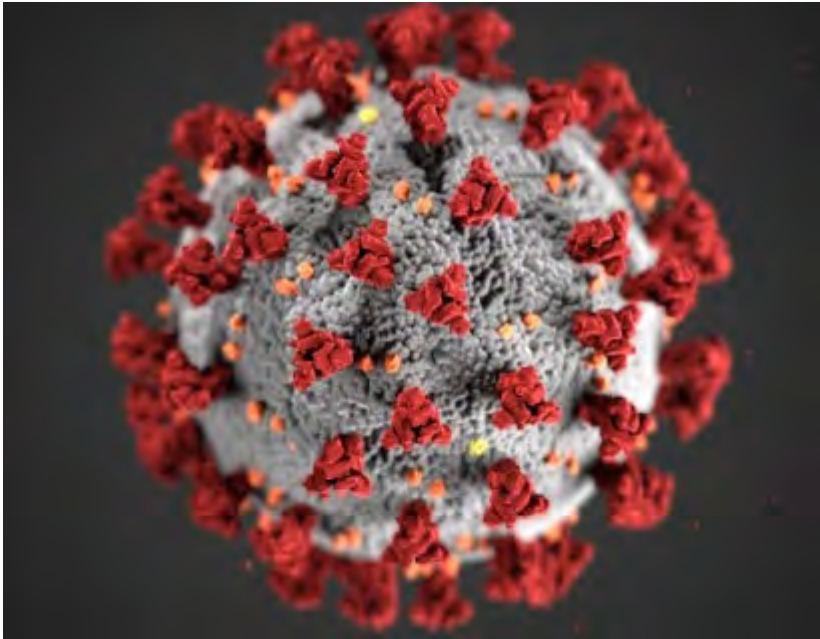
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# Other Topics



# Future Directions

What new advances will help enable radiation therapy to better cure cervical cancer in the future?

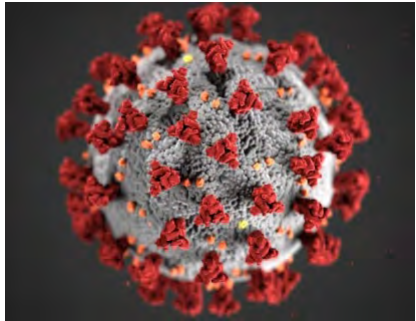


# COVID-19

Should I delay treatment of cervical cancer due to concern of COVID-19 infection?



# ASTRO COVID-19 Vaccine for Cancer Patients



*Cancer patients may have an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and more severe disease if infected. According to the CDC, “Adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to people with underlying medical conditions provided they have not had a severe or immediate allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in the vaccine.” These guidelines also apply to cancer patients. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines do not include any virus, and there is no risk of contracting the infection from the vaccine.*

*Patients who have cancer, as well as those who have received treatment for cancer, may be immune compromised, but these patients may still receive COVID-19 vaccines as long as there is no increased risk of reaction to any of the components of the vaccine. ASTRO encourages cancer patients who are actively receiving treatment such as radiation therapy to consult with their oncologists about the timing for vaccination, injection location, and any unique considerations relevant for their treatments. Individuals with a prior history of cancer who are not in active treatment are encouraged to seek vaccination whenever it is made available to them.*