

Myth busting

Gynaecological Cancer



Perci Health

01

Myth

“I'm too young to get gynaecological cancer”

Fact

While most women who get gynaecological cancer are over 50, it can affect younger women as well.



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02

Myth

“There is a screening programme for gynaecological cancer”

Fact

There are no national screening programmes for gynaecological cancer – only cervical screening that detects types of HPV that can lead to cell changes.



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03

Myth

“I have a family history of gynaecological cancer, so I will definitely get it”

Fact

If you have a family history of gynaecological cancer or have inherited a faulty gene, your GP or a genetic counsellor can help assess your risk.



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04

Myth

“A cervical screening test detects gynaecological cancer”

Fact

While the nurse who performs the test can check the health of the vagina, cervical screens only check for the HPV virus.



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05

Myth

“HPV causes ovarian cancer”

Fact

HPV is linked to cervical cancer, vaginal and vulval cancer, but not to womb and ovarian cancer.



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06

Myth

“There are very few early warning signs of gynaecological cancer”

Fact

Most gynaecological cancers do have early signs, including unusual bleeding or discharge, bloating or nausea, and back or pelvic pain.



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