

Introduction to Cervical Cancer

- **Cervical cancer** arises from the cervix: anatomically not visible to the woman.
- Caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection, sexually transmitted
- HPV has many types: high-risk types such as Types 16, 18 cause Cancer
- The lifetime risk of acquiring HPV in sexually active women is 86% by age 50;
- Women with persistent HPV are at risk of cervical Cancer

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- Affects the most vulnerable women - **peak age is 35-49 years**;
- **Cervical cancer & HIV:** In women living with HIV/AIDS:
 - Cervical cancer occurs a decade earlier
 - It is more aggressive
 - They have **6 times** more risk than HIV negative
- Causes emotional trauma, financial burden, social impact
- **Cervical Cancer is Preventable**

