



梁愷昞婦癌基金會  
KAREN LEUNG  
FOUNDATION  
10 YEARS

## CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING & HPV TEST

### ABOUT KLF

The **Karen Leung Foundation** is a **local non-profit** organization dedicated to **minimizing the impact** of **gynecological cancers and HPV-related cancers and diseases** in **Hong Kong** through **education** and **prevention** initiatives.

### OVERVIEW OF CERVICAL CANCER

Cervical cancer is the 4th most common cancer in women worldwide. It is the 7th most common cancer and the 8th leading cause of cancer-related deaths amongst women in Hong Kong. Yet it is one of the truly preventable cancers.

### ABOUT HPV

- The leading cause of cervical cancer is HPV (Human papillomavirus), which is responsible for more than 99 percent of all cases.
- Most HPV infections, precancerous lesions and early cervical cancers have no symptoms, and if treatment is not timely, the cancer will develop to an advanced stage and is difficult to treat. Therefore, regular screening (for example, Pap smear and high-risk HPV test) is very important for women.
- HPV infection is very common, affecting 4 in 5 women at some point in their life.
- HPV is transmitted through sexual contact. Anyone can be infected with HPV, even if you have only one sexual partner, or used a condom. In most cases, the body's immune system clears HPV infection naturally in 1 to 2 years. However, in some cases, persistent HPV infection develops to pre-cancerous lesions and cervical cancer.



## HPV & CERVICAL CANCER

- HPV has more than 100 different types, while there are 14 high-risk HPV strains contributing to cervical cancer. HPV 16 and HPV 18 are the highest risk and cause 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases.
- Women with HPV 16 or HPV 18 are 35 times more likely to develop cervical precancerous lesions than those without HPV.
- High-risk HPV test detects the presence of HPV (including HPV 16 and 18), and to evaluate the risk for precancerous lesion.

## SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER

- Pap smear is a traditional cervical cancer screening method, when combined with high-risk HPV test (Co-testing) increases the ratio of cervical cancer or precancerous lesion detection from 57 – 74% to more than 90%.
- Starting from 03rd April 2023, women aged 30 to 64 attending the Department of Health's cervical screening service receive HPV testing as the primary approach to cervical screening.
- However, the method of sample collection from the cervix through speculum examination by healthcare professionals remains the same.
- The current screening rate in Hong Kong is 22% while the WHO target is 70%
- Therefore, as a way to increase the screening rate we at KLF are exploring newer methods that would be more acceptable and accessible to all women across Hong Kong.

## HPV VACCINATION

Vaccination can help prevent certain HPV infections, but it cannot provide protection if women are already infected with HPV during the time of vaccination. HPV vaccine cannot provide protection for all high-risk HPV. Therefore, regular screening for high-risk HPV is still required to find out the risk of precancerous lesions.

Read more: [Resources](#)