

13. Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of mortality among women. In 2020, an estimated 604,000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer worldwide, and about 342,000 women died from the disease. In Myanmar, cervical cancer is the most common cancer among women, particularly those aged 15 to 44 years. Furthermore, HPV types 16 and 18 are responsible for approximately 70% of invasive cervical cancer cases in the country. Each year, around 7,129 women in Myanmar are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and 4,497 die from it.

Cervical cancer is primarily caused by a persistent infection with oncogenic types of human papillomavirus (HPV), which is transmitted through sexual contact. It typically takes 15–20 years for cervical cancer to develop in women with normal immune systems. However, in women with weakened immune systems—such as those living with HIV—the disease can progress more rapidly, within 5–10 years.

Although cervical cancer is one of the most common diseases affecting women, it is also highly preventable. HPV vaccination during childhood can prevent the development of cervical cancer. However, most women today did not receive the vaccine during childhood. Another key preventive measure is the early detection of pre-cancerous cervical lesions through regular screening and timely treatment to prevent progression to cervical cancer.

Reference

- MAM SOP on Screening and treatment for cervical pre-cancerous lesions_V 2.1_April 2026.