



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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JANUARY IS CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, January 15, 2015 – January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. The cervix is a tube-like fleshy part of a woman’s uterus that connects the vagina to the uterine cavity. The cervix is a common place for infections and cancer to occur, fortunately we can prevent these problems from occurring.

The most serious health issue with the cervix is if cancer develops. Cancer of the cervix happens when certain types of HPV are present in the vagina. Not all HPV causes cervical cancer, but HPV does not have any symptoms until the cancer develops. HPV is associated with cervical cancer but, fortunately, there are things that can be done to help prevent HPV from causing cervical cancer:

- Cervical cancer can often be prevented with regular screening tests (called Pap tests) and follow-up care. HPV doesn’t cause cancer quickly, and if caught early, can be treated and cured.
- Cervical cancer screenings can help detect abnormal (changed) cells early, before they turn into cancer. Most deaths from cervical cancer could be prevented by regular Pap tests and follow-up care.
- HPV caused cervical cancer can be prevented with the HPV vaccine.

MedChi President, Dr. Tyler Cymet states “MedChi encourages women to start getting regular Pap tests at age 21 or when they start to engage in sexual activity and to get the HPV vaccine before age 27.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.