



R I BAR ASSOCIATION

Cancer is consistently a top 3 cause of death in the U.S., killing more than 500,000 people each year. Screening, early detection and accurate diagnosis can significantly improve patient survival rates and quality of life, while also greatly reducing the cost and complexity of treatment.

When cancer is detected early and treated appropriately, the 5-year cancer survival rate is increased. In the U.S., the 5-year survival rate for a woman diagnosed with cervical cancer at an advanced stage is 15%, compared to 93% if diagnosed before the cancer has spread.

Treatment costs for patients diagnosed at an early stage may be 2 to 4 times less expensive than for those patients diagnosed with advanced-stage cancer.

At the end of the day, screenings are an essential part of your health and wellbeing regimen. Be sure to schedule your Annual Preventive Exam, especially if you have a family history of cancer – it could save your life. In addition to the exam, your medical practitioner will perform recommended screenings according to your age, gender, and other risk factors based on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) screening guidelines:

Breast Cancer (mammograms)	»»	Screening mammography for women aged 50-74 years every 2 years
Cervical Cancer (pap smear)	»»	Women aged 21-65 years should be screened with cytology (commonly known as a pap smear) every 3 years
Colorectal Cancer (colonoscopy)	»»	Screening should start at age 50 years and be performed once every 10 years until age 75 years
Prostate Cancer (prostate exam)	»»	Men aged 55-69 years should discuss the benefits and concerns regarding this screening with a medical professional

Sources:  
[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)  
<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/>  
<https://ascopost.com/News/59711#>

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