

## Key Points

Gynecological pre-cancers and cancers in children are rare.

### VULVAR CANCER

This is a very rare form of cancer that is not often seen. Pre-cancer is more common than cancer, but it too is rare. These are often associated with conditions where the body's immune system has problems fighting diseases.

### VAGINAL CANCER

Vaginal cancer is rare, but it does occur. Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common soft tissue sarcoma found in girls.

### CERVICAL CANCER

This condition is rarely seen in children and adolescents. Pap smear screening should begin at age 21. HPV testing should start at age 30.

### UTERINE/ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

This condition is very rare and it affects the lining of the uterus. Symptoms include abnormal menstruation and cramping.



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# Diseases of the Vulva, Vagina, Cervix, and Uterus in Children and Adolescents



Information for Patients

**Childhood Gynecologic Cancer  
Association**  
[www.cgynca.org](http://www.cgynca.org)

## More About Us

The Childhood Gynecologic Cancer Association is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization interested in helping patients and families affected by vulvar, vaginal, cervical, uterine or ovarian cancer. Education is important for patients and families as well as for health care providers.

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## VULVAR CANCER AND PRE-CANCER

- This refers to a cancerous growth on the vulva which includes the labia, the opening of the vagina, the clitoris, and the space between the vagina and anus.



- **VULVAR CANCERS** in adolescents are very rare. Vulvar pre-cancer relating to human papilloma virus (HPV) however, is being diagnosed in adolescents at an increasing rate.
- The HPV vaccination is an important discussion to have with your doctor. The vaccine does not protect against all types of HPV, however, it does provide protection against the four most common strains in the United States. The HPV vaccination is recommended and approved for both girls and boys.
- Patients may not present with symptoms; however, the symptoms associated with this cancer are itching and/or burning.
- Pre-cancer of the vulva is also known as vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN).
- Currently, 80% of patients with VIN are HPV positive.

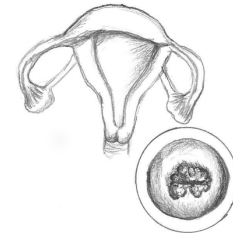
## Other Cancers

### VAGINAL CANCER

- Some cancers form in the tissues of the vagina. Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common soft tissue cancer seen in children and adolescents. There are often no symptoms of this cancer and it is generally found through a gynecological exam. At times bleeding is present.

### CERVICAL CANCER

- This condition hardly ever occurs in children and adolescents. Screening is not recommended until age 21 and is done by scraping cells from the cervix. HPV testing should begin at age 30.



### UTERINE/ ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

- This cancer is rarely seen in children, but may occur in some adolescents. Endometrial cancer is the most common type of uterine cancer that starts in the lining of the uterus. Symptoms of this cancer include abnormal menstrual periods and lower abdominal pain or cramping.