

Yannes: Good morning everyone, we are from 6B bio group. And today we would like to give a short talk about cervical cancer. If you don't know what it is, we hope that we can give you some information about this disease. Are you ready to have a biology lesson this morning?

Tung: Alright, let's start. According to the Hong Kong Cancer Registry, in 2008, cervical cancer was the tenth most common cancer among females in Hong Kong. Although the cancer is more likely to be found in aged women, there's still a chance that it may occur in teenagers.

Tung: Before explaining what cervical cancer is, can anyone answer me where the cervix in a female reproductive organ is and where cervical cancer occurs?

(Show the picture) Chow, you answer me.

Chow: Cervix is a ring of muscle located at the base of uterus and at the end of the vagina. Cervix can prevent the embryo from falling out of the uterus during pregnancy.

Tung: Very good, next question. What is the main cause of the cancer? Kat, your turn.

Kat: I think one of the possible causes is the infection by HPV. It is a virus that causes the cancer. Other risk factors include HIV, which is another virus that causes AIDS, smoking and having early sex. All these will also raise the risk of having such cancer.

Tung: That's true. But how is the disease transmitted? Yannes, I think you've got the answer.

Yannes: As cervical cancer is one of the sexually transmitted diseases, it is transmitted through direct contact with blood or body fluid of the infected person when having sex.

Tung: Excellent. The next question is more difficult. How does the cancer develop?

Alkaline: To begin with, when the normal cervix is exposed to the pathogen like HPV or HIV, the cells will be infected. The majority of infected cervix's cells will recover and go back to normal under the action of our immune system. However, some of them will gradually develop into cancer over 5-10 years.

Chow: If the patient ignores the disease and takes any action, it will eventually develop into cancer. The cancer cells will invade nearby tissues and then spread to distant body

sites such as the liver, lung, and brain, likely causing death.

Tung: Wow! What a perfect answer. If cervical cancer is such a dangerous disease , what precautions can we take? Kat, you go for it.

Kat: In fact, we can prevent the cancer by avoiding HPV infection: Since HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer, which is sexually transmitted, the importance of safer sex is always the key point to do so.

First, avoid sex at an early age as immature cervix is more sensitive to HPV infection and other carcinogens.

Second, use a condom during the sexual intercourse, as condoms may also protect you from other sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis B.

Tung: For long term prevention--- Injection of vaccine is also a measure which can protect us against infection by the high risk type of HPV. A healthy lifestyle like avoiding smoking, having a balanced diet and regular exercise can improve your body immunity and hence reduce chance of getting cancer.

Thank you for your patience and attention. Hope you can learn something useful from the talk.