



## Women Cancer

Dear MEDBOX users, women cancers have a meaningful impact on women's health worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, almost three million women are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer each year. Cancer is becoming more and more a public health concern, specifically in sub-Saharan Africa.

To keep you well-informed, we have prepared a new issue brief about cancer. This time on women's cancer, particularly breast and cervical cancer.

## Women Cancer

In Europe, cancer care has made massive progress in recent decades. For instance, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer patients is today 94%, prevention campaigns and treatment advances have led to a significant decline in cervical cancer. However, worldwide is an extremely unequal access to cancer treatment - with women and their families in sub-Saharan Africa having most likely poor options.

Cervical cancer is preventable through prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV or vaccination against HPV. Through screening, it can be detected and treated at an early stage. Thankfully, cancer is becoming an increasing focus of attention, and almost all African countries have now adopted national cancer plans, however implementation is still in its infancy. Inadequate spending on health care sadly makes the problem even worse.

Overall, sub-Saharan Africa shows that women present to the hospital only in the late stages of cancer. Consequently, they have a significantly poorer chance of survival. Between 60% and 75% of women live in rural areas. These women often remain untreated due to the lack of health facilities there, long commutes to the hospital, and not knowing about cancer. In addition, there are numerous cultural and socioeconomic barriers to comprehensive cancer prevention among women.

This inequality causes much suffering for the women affected, their families, and especially the children left behind, and has a major impact on communities, as well as doing significant economic damage to societies. Tackling cancer in sub-Saharan Africa requires a multidisciplinary approach that includes education and prevention, early detection programs and access to treatment, and palliative care.

The research on women's cancer in Africa is still in the beginning. There are still many unresearched aspects. We hope that this brief will help you to get a first overview.

You can find further documents and best practices for cervical cancer screening and treatment in our [Clinical Guidelines](#).

## Policy & Prevention

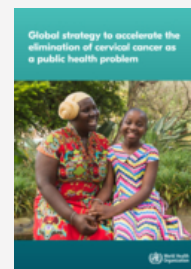
WHO's Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer, launched today, outlines three key steps: vaccination, screening and treatment. Successful implementation of all three could reduce more than 40% of new cases of the disease and 5 million related deaths by 2050.

### Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem

World Health Organization WHO

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<https://www.medbox.org/document/global-strategy-to-accelerate-the-elimination-of-cervical-cancer-as-a-public-health-problem>

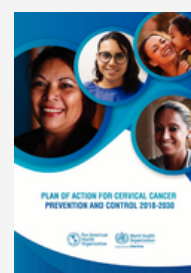


### Plan of Action for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control 2018-2030

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

This Plan envisions a future with the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem as a result of universal access to sexual health and STI prevention services, HPV vaccines, effective screening and precancer treatment services, treatment of invasive cervical cancer, and palliative care. It foresees that all women and girls, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, HIV status, or disability will have timely access to quality cervical cancer prevention, care, and treatment so that they can live in good health throughout the life course and enjoy the health-related human rights. The goal is to accelerate progress toward the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem in the Americas by reducing incidence and mortality rates by one-third by 2030.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/plan-of-action-for-cervical-cancer-prevention-and-control-2018-2030>

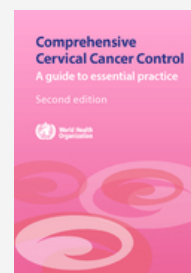


### Comprehensive cervical cancer control: A guide to essential practice

August Burns, Linda O'Neal Eckert, Susan Hariri et al

This publication gives a broad vision of what a comprehensive approach to cervical cancer prevention and control means. In particular, it outlines the complementary strategies for comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control, and highlights the enablers. This new guide updates the 2006 edition and includes the recent promising evidence for collaboration across programmes, organizations and partnerships in technologies and strategies that can address the gaps between the needs for and availability of services for cervical cancer prevention and control.

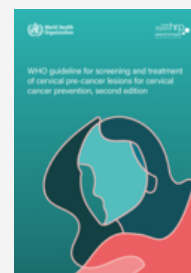
<https://www.medbox.org/document/comprehensive-cervical-cancer-control-a-guide-to-essential-practice>  
[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/144785/1/9789241548953\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/144785/1/9789241548953_eng.pdf)



### WHO guideline for screening and treatment of cervical pre-cancer lesions for cervical cancer prevention

World Health Organization WHO

2nd edition, July 2021. This WHO and HRP guideline is designed to help countries make faster progress, more equitably, on the screening and treatment of cervical cancer. It includes some important shifts in WHO's recommended approaches to cervical screening, and includes a total of 23 recommendations and 7 good practice statements. Among the 23 recommendations, 6 are identical for both the general population of women and for women living with HIV and 12 are



different and specific for each population. Among the 7 good practice statements, 3 are identical for both the general population of women and for women living with HIV and 2 are different and specific for each population

<https://www.medbox.org/document/who-guideline-for-screening-and-treatment-of-cervical-pre-cancer-lesions-for-cervical-cancer-prevention>

### **WHO technical guidance and specifications of medical devices for screening and treatment of precancerous lesions in the prevention of cervical cancer**

*World Health Organization WHO*

Globally, 311,000 women die of cervical cancer every year, 85 percent of them in resource limited regions of the world. To address this grave threat to women, the WHO made a call to action in 2018, resulting in accelerated plans to improve cervical cancer control under the elimination threshold with respect to cervical cancer incidence. As part of WHO's approach to cervical cancer control, availability of high quality, affordable medical devices for HPV screening, and treatment of precancerous lesions in low resource settings is indispensable.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/who-technical-guidance-and-specifications-of-medical-devices-for-screening-and-treatment-of-precancerous-lesions-in-the-prevention-of-cervical-cancer>



### **Prevention: breast cancer risks factors and prevention**

*World Health Organization WHO; Pan American Health Organization PAHO*

This summary covers the preventive approach to breast cancer control and includes prophylactic medications, prophylactic surgery and lifestyle modifications for breast cancer prevention. Health professional training and individual risk assessments and counseling are also discussed.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/prevention-breast-cancer-risks-factors-and-prevention>



### **Clinical guidelines for breast cancer control and management**

*Ministry of Health, Republic of South Africa*

<https://www.medbox.org/document/clinical-guidelines-for-breast-cancer-control-and-managment>



## Patient Education

### Cervical Cancer Vaccine Poster *Ministry of Health Uganda*

Accessed January 1, 2017

<https://www.medbox.org/document/cervical-cancer-vaccine-poster>



### Cervical Cancer/Kansa ya shingo la kizazi *Helen Mtui/ Hesperian*

<https://www.medbox.org/document/cervical-cancerkansa-ya-shingo-la-kizazi>  
[http://hesperian.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/sw\\_hmx/sw\\_cervicalcancerflyer\\_HelenMtui\\_2014.pdf](http://hesperian.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/sw_hmx/sw_cervicalcancerflyer_HelenMtui_2014.pdf)



### Cervical Cancer: Understanding prevention, screening and treatment *Medical Aid Films*

This film explains the importance of screening, early detection and treatment of cervical cancer. This film is for use in community health education. This film will explain how pre-cancer cells and cervical cancer develops. It will also explain what you can do to protect yourself from the disease by making healthy choices, attending cervical screening and seeking treatment if necessary. Available in different languages: English, Bemba, Somali, Haitian Creole, French, Yoruba, Hausa, Swahili. For use in the training of skilled health workers, we have an additional two films available



<https://www.medbox.org/document/cervical-cancer-understanding-prevention-screening-and-treatment>  
<https://www.medicalaidfilms.org/film/understanding-screening-treatment-and-prevention-of-cervical-cancer/>

### Problems of the Breasts *Hesperian*

Where Women Have No Doctor > Chapter 24: Cancer and Growths > Problems of the Breasts

<https://www.medbox.org/document/problems-of-the-breasts>  
[https://en.hesperian.org/hhg/Where\\_Women\\_Have\\_No\\_Doctor:Problems\\_of\\_the\\_Breasts](https://en.hesperian.org/hhg/Where_Women_Have_No_Doctor:Problems_of_the_Breasts)



## 8 Ways to Prevent Breast Cancer

Siteman Cancer Center Locations

Breast cancer. Just reading those words can make many women worry. And that's natural. Nearly everyone knows someone touched by the disease. But there is a lot of good news about breast cancer these days. Treatments keep getting better, and we know more than ever about ways to prevent the disease. These eight simple steps can help lower the risk of breast cancer. Not every one applies to every woman, but together they can have a big impact. Available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese

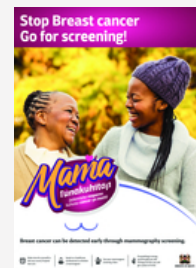
<https://www.medbox.org/document/8-ways-to-prevent-breast-cancer>



## Stop breast cancer - go for screening

Ministry of Health, Kenya

<https://www.medbox.org/document/stop-breast-cancer-go-for-screening>

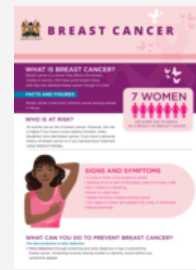


## Breast Cancer

Ministry of Health, Kenya

Access on 16.03.2021

<https://www.medbox.org/document/breast-cancer>



## Breast Cancer Patient Education

EthnoMed

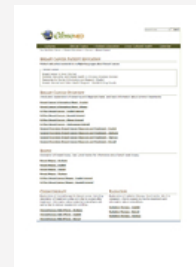
This

[website](#)

collects patient education material about breast cancer, biopsy, chemotherapy, radiation, lymph nodes, margins and surgery in several languages (Amharic, english, khmer, spanish, somali, tigrinya, vietnamese).

<https://www.medbox.org/document/breast-cancer-patient-education>

<https://ethnomed.org/patient-education/cancer/breast-cancer>



Here you will find educational materials about breast cancer, biopsy, chemotherapy, radiation, lymph nodes, margins and surgery in several languages (Amharic, English, Khmer, Spanish, Somali, Tigrinya, Vietnamese).

more information [Breast Cancer Patient Education](#)



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Catholic Advisory Organisation for International Health

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