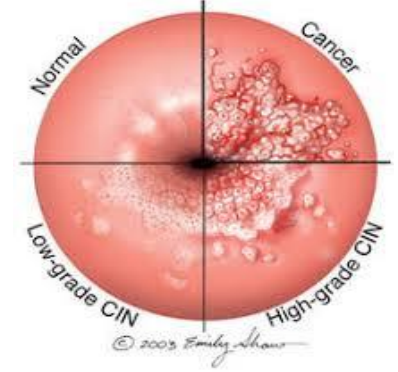




Two Preventable Cancers, One Mission : Strengthening Oral and Cervical Cancer Screening in Nepal

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Facts about Nepal

Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal



- Divided into **7 provinces** and **77 districts**.
- Landlocked country in South east Asia .
- Total Area - **147,181 sq.km**
- Population – **30.5 million (2022)**
- **Life expectancy at birth-** Male: 70.8 yrs, Female: 72.3 yrs.
 - **Literacy rate** - Male: 78.7% , Female: 53.3% (Over 15yrs.)



Country of Mt. Everest

Height - 8,848 meter



Buddha birth place - Lumbini



Cancer Incidence in Nepal (Globocan)

Cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Nepal.

Incidence - 22,008 , (ASIR-103.7/100,000). **Mortality** – 14,704, (77.8)

5 yrs. prevalence – 44,803 , **Female (56%)** cancer more than Male.(44%)

Top 5 cancers

S.No.	Male Cancer	Female Cancer	Both Sexes Cancer
1.	Lung (1,528 - 15.6%)	Breast (2,255 – 18.5 %)	Lung (2,431 -11.0%)
2.	Stomach (1,069 - 10.9%)	Cervix (2,169 – 17.8%)	Breast (2,255 – 10.2%)
3.	Lip, oral cavity (696 - 7.1%)	Lung (903 – 7.4%)	Cervix uteri (2,169 – 9.9%)
4.	Colorectum (691 - 7.1%)	Gall bladder (807 – 6.6%)	Stomach (1,720 – 7.8%)
5.	Liver (427 - 4.4%)	Stomach (651 – 5.3%)	Colorectum (1,198 – 5.4 %)
6.	Others (5,381 - 55.0%)	Others (5,431 – 44.5 %)	Others (12,235 – 55.6%)
7.	total cases - 9,792 (44.5%)	total cases – 12,216 (55.5%)	total cases – 22,008

Introduction : -

- Cancer is increasing in Nepal and becoming a major health problem .
- Many cancers can be prevented, but due to lack of awareness most of the cases are found late.
- Oral cancer is common in Male due to smokeless tobacco and alcohol use.
- Cervical cancer is common among women due to HPV infection and low screening.
- These cancers affect more people in rural and low-income areas.
- The good news is both cancers can be prevented and early detection through simple screening can save lives.

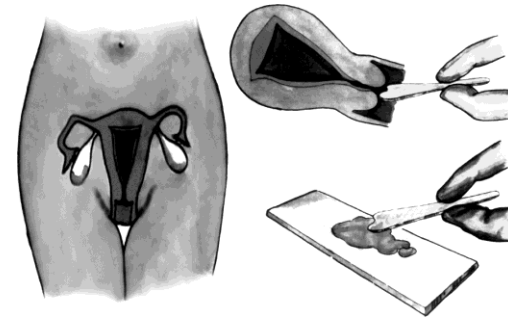
Burden of Cervical Cancer in Nepal :

- one of the most common cancers in Nepal.
- more than 2,000/yr new cases are diagnosed.
- Many women are diagnosed at a late stage, leading to high death rates.
- The incidence rate -24 cases /100,000 women
- Cervical cancer accounts for around 1 in 5 ($\approx 21\%$) of all female cancers.
- The burden is higher in rural and low-resource settings.
- Limited screening and low awareness contribute to the high burden.



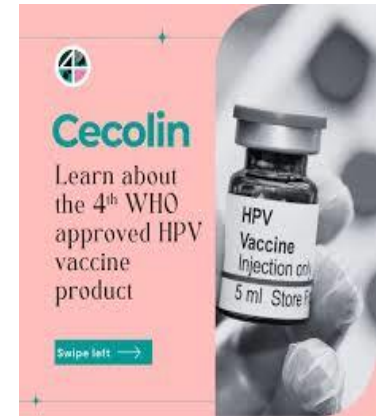
HPV and Cervical Cancer in Nepal :

- HPV 16 and 18 are responsible for about 70–80% of cases.
- HPV prevalence : 14% among women.
- Screening services (Pap smear, VIA, HPV testing) are not widely accessible.
- Only ~22% women ever screened .
- Cultural barriers, stigma, and limited health access affect prevention efforts .



. HPV vaccination in Nepal :

- Implementation of the **national-level HPV vaccination program** starting from February 4th , 2024 (World Cancer Day).
 - **Target:** 1.6 million girls, aged 9–13 years ,
 - 1.5 million vaccinated.
 - **Vaccine name :** Cecolin (Innovax Co.), **single-dose**



Recommendation for the single-dose HPV vaccine from the UN health body & WHO.

- supported by Gavi,(Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) ,WHO and UNICEF.
- integrated into Nepal's **National Immunization Program.**

HPV Vaccination Program,



Cervical Cancer Screening Program - **Visual Inspection with Acidic Acid (VIA test)** in the community, **Pap smear/HPV DNA test** – in few hospital





Cervical Cancer Screening (VIA Test) in Rural Districts



Burden of Oral Cancer in Nepal :

- Oral cancer - **top 3 cancers in Male.**
- More than **60% of oral cancers in South Asian countries** are still diagnosed in locally advanced stages.
- Majority cases occur in **males (~74%)** .
80% of oral cancers occur in low socio-economic status who are likely tobacco users and live in areas without standard facilities for treating oral cancers.
- Common sites: tongue, gingiva .



Chewing Tobacco - Pan parag , Khaini ,Gutkha
Paan With Lime stone and mixed with tobacco
ingredients.



Smoking :



- Nepal made global history -**100% health warnings** on cigarette packs.
- But implementation is currently stalled in the Supreme Court due to industry pushback.

Key Challenges in Nepal :

- **Late-stage** diagnosis in both cancers .
- Lack of **organized national screening programs** .
- Limited cancer **registry data** .
- Inequity between **urban and rural** healthcare access.
- Low awareness and health literacy .

Opportunities & Progress :

- Expansion of **HPV vaccination programs**
- Integration of **screening into primary healthcare**
- Use of **AI and digital screening tools** (future potential)
- Strong role of NGOs and community programs

Strategic Priorities for Nepal :

- Scale-up **HPV vaccination (girls and boys)**
- Nationwide **screening (Pap smear / HPV testing)**
- Tobacco control policies
- Community awareness campaigns
- Strengthening cancer registry and data systems .

Regional Collaboration :

- collaboration is essential .
- Learning from Taiwan's success in screening & vaccination
- Need for **technology transfer and capacity building**
- Multi-sectoral partnerships .

Conclusion :

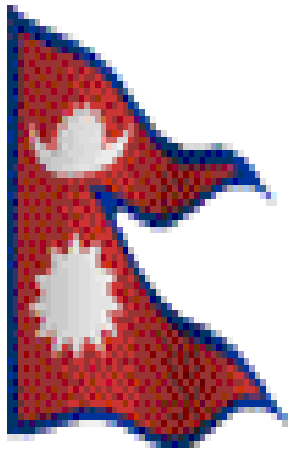
- Oral and cervical cancers are **preventable cancers**
- Nepal has **high burden but also high opportunity for impact**
- Focus must shift from treatment → **prevention and early detection**

Oral & Cervical Cancer Screening in Rural village



Cancer awareness program in different districts





Thanks for the Attention
“ Let's join together to prevent cancer.”



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