

# Minimally invasive radical hysterectomy for early stage cervical cancer

Information for the public

Published: 27 January 2021

[www.nice.org.uk](https://www.nice.org.uk)

For tumours smaller than 2 cm, this procedure can only be done as part of a research study. This is because there is not enough evidence to be sure how well it works or how safe it is. Your healthcare professional should talk to you about the research.

For tumours 2 cm or larger, this procedure should not be used. The evidence shows that survival is worse compared with open hysterectomy surgery. Your healthcare professional should talk to you about other treatment options.

Cervical cancer develops in the lower part of the womb (uterus) where it joins the top of the vagina (an area called the cervix). Early-stage cervical cancer is in the cervix only or has spread to the top of the vagina. In a radical hysterectomy the cervix, uterus and some structures connected to them are removed. In this procedure, the surgery is done through the abdomen using a tube with a camera on the end (laparoscope), known as keyhole or minimally invasive surgery. A robot may be used to help with the procedure. The aim is to completely remove the cancer.

The [NHS website](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

## Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

## Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

## More information

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what only in research means.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-8045-1

---