

CANSA encourages people living with **HIV** to know their cancer risk



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The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a cancer-causing agent and can put people living with HIV at risk for cancer

People living with HIV are at higher risk of AIDS-defining cancers:



Kaposi sarcoma



Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma



Conjunctival cancer



Squamous cell carcinoma



Cervical cancer



Penile cancer



Anal cancer



Vulvar cancer

They're also at increased risk of conjunctival cancer and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) related cancers

To lower personal risk of cancer and to promote early detection, people living with HIV should start with antiretroviral therapy (ART) early and adhere to ART to lower the risk of Kaposi sarcoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Cervical cancer screening in HIV-positive women should be done at HIV diagnosis, and every 3 years (yearly if screening test is positive) according to the recommendations of the SA Cervical Cancer Policy.



health

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CANSA Care Centres country-wide offer cancer screening: Pap smears, clinical breast examinations, FotoFinder skin examinations and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood tests at affordable rates.



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Common symptoms of HIV related cancers

It is important for those living with HIV to be aware of the symptoms of cancer, as early detection improves treatment outcomes.



Kaposi sarcoma: Slightly elevated purple / pink (on white skin); brown / black (on darker tone skins); or red blotches or bumps anywhere on the skin or in the mouth and / or throat Swelling of the legs - caused by a blockage of the lymphatic system



Cervical cancer: May have no symptoms in early stages; Increased vaginal discharge; Maybe foul smelling discharge; Pain or bleeding during sexual intercourse



Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma: painless, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, armpits or groin; persistent fatigue, fever, night sweats; unexplained weight loss.



Conjunctival cancer: a white, painless, progressive growth on the surface of the eye; may have associated photophobia, redness of the eye, irritation and foreign body sensation.



Anal cancer: may have no symptoms in early stages; blood or mucous in stools (faeces) or on toilet paper; itching; discomfort or pain around the anus; a feeling of fullness, discomfort or pain in the rectum; a lump near the edge of the anus; ulcers around the anus.



Vulvar cancer: thickening / roughness of the skin of the vulva; itching, pain or burning; lump or open sore on the vulva; bleeding or discharge not related to the normal menstrual period.



Penile cancer: a growth or sore on the penis that does not heal in 4 weeks; bleeding from the penis or foul-smelling discharge from under the foreskin; thickening or discolouration of the skin on the penis.



Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin: a wart-like skin growth, or a persistent, scaly red patch with irregular borders that may bleed easily; an open sore that persists for weeks; a raised growth with a rough surface and a central depression.



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