



Treatments

Some options include surgery, chemotherapy, and/or radiation.

General treatment options are tailored to the patient and are evolving everyday through the use of clinical research.

Studies are underway to see if less invasive treatments of abnormal cells may lower the risk of anal cancer in high-risk individuals.

To learn about current clinical trials, visit [WakeHealth.edu/BeInvolved](https://www.wakehealth.edu/BeInvolved).

Additional Resources

- National Cancer Institute: [cancer.gov](https://www.cancer.gov)
- American Cancer Society: [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org)
- University of California San Francisco: [analcancerinfo.ucsf.edu](https://www.analcancerinfo.ucsf.edu)


Office of Cancer Health Equity

Let us know how we can help you!


- Education sessions
- Community outreach
- Cancer navigation that is appropriate to both language and culture

Call **336-713-3665** or email CancerEquity@WakeHealth.edu to learn more about the Office of Cancer Health Equity or to schedule an education session.

Follow us:

 @WFCancerEquity

 @WFCancerEquity

 WFCancerEquity

These materials are provided in part by the Jane Walker Perkinson Memorial Fund, an endowed fund dedicated to the Office of Cancer Health Equity at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center.

To make an appointment:

888-716-WAKE • [WakeHealth.edu](https://www.wakehealth.edu)

**Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Comprehensive Cancer Center**
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157



Atrium Health Levine Cancer is enhanced by our National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist. Of the 1,000+ cancer programs in the U.S., NCI has officially designated just 56, or 5%, as "Comprehensive" for meeting the highest possible standards.



A QUICK GUIDE TO

Anal Cancer

Office of Cancer Health Equity



DID YOU KNOW

The number of people who get anal cancer has been increasing over the last several decades.

Knowing more may save your life.



What is Anal Cancer?

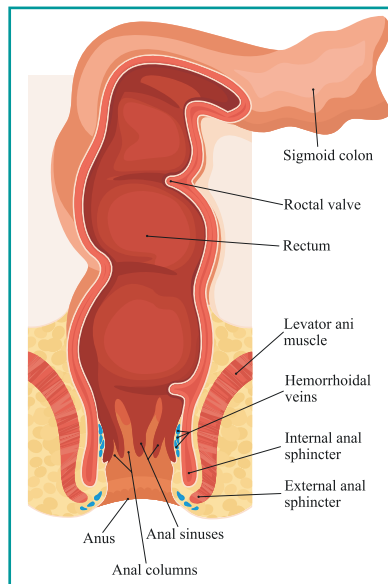
Anal cancer begins when abnormal cells develop in the anus, the opening at the end of the colon where waste exists the body. Anal cancer occurs in both men and women. People living with certain infections such as HIV/AIDS have a much higher risk of getting anal cancer.

Symptoms

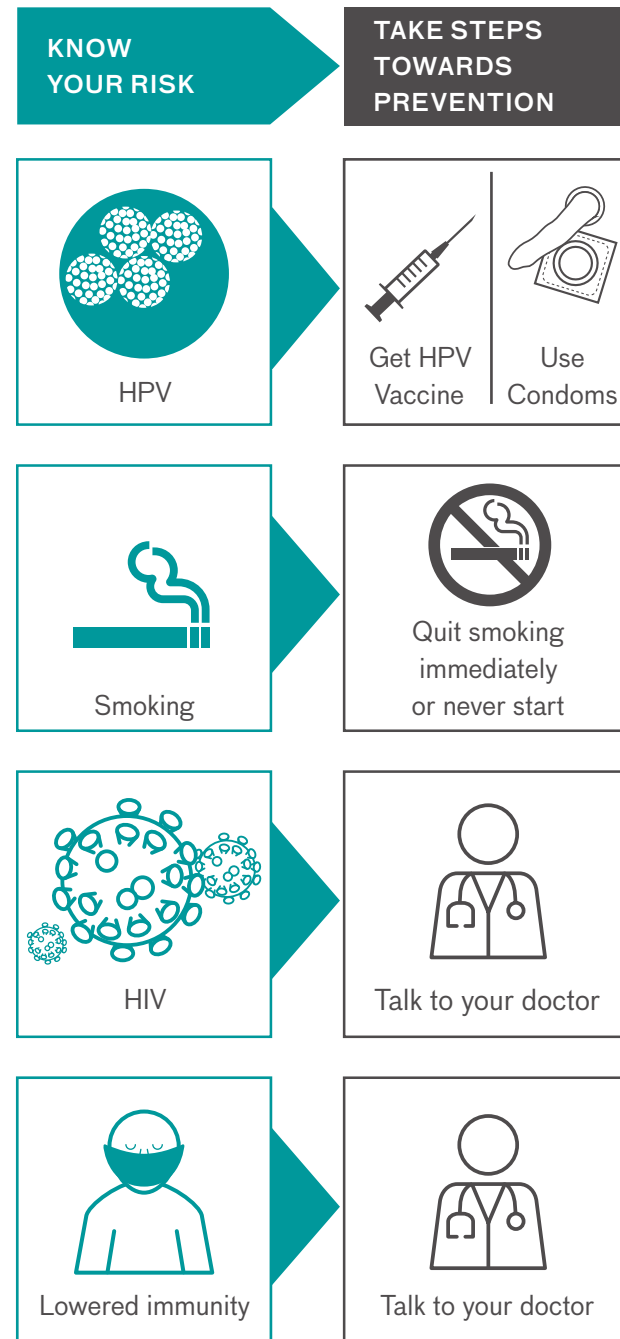
Early anal cancer does not usually cause symptoms. However, symptoms may include:

- Bleeding from the anus or rectum
- A lump or swelling near the anus
- Itching or discharge from the anus
- A change in bowel habits
- Constant pain or pressure in the anal area
- Pain when moving your bowels or having sex

If symptoms last longer than two weeks, talk to a medical professional.



What Can I Do?



Screening

The following tests and procedures may be used to examine the anus, find, and possibly prevent anal cancer:

- Digital Ano-Rectal Exam (DARE): A physical exam of the anus and rectum to feel for abnormalities.
- High Resolution Anoscopy: An exam that looks inside the anus and lower rectum under high magnification. This may be used to diagnose anal cancer early, or to lower the risk of anal cancer by removing abnormal cells
- Proctoscopy: An exam that looks inside the anus and the entire rectum and removes tissue samples to view under a microscope.
- Anal Pap: An exam that checks cells taken from the opening of the anus under a microscope. Medical professionals are currently studying whether anal pap, with HPV testing, may be used to find anal cancer early and any changes that may lead to cancer.

Over 90% of anal cancers are caused by HPV, a common virus spread through any type of sexual contact. There are several types of HPV. Many types don't cause problems. Some types of HPV can lead to anal cancer.

To make an appointment:
888-716-WAKE • WakeHealth.edu