sex & intimacy after cervical cancer

Sexual health challenges are common among people who have or had cancer. This is certainly true for cervical cancer, as treatment can affect sexual functioning in a number of ways, both physical and emotional. We recently surveyed just over one hundred cervical cancer patients and survivors about their experiences with intimacy and sex—here’s what they had to say.

sexual problems are nearly universal

In response to the question "Have you had problems with sex or intimacy as a result of your cancer diagnosis" more than 91% of respondents said yes.

the impact is both physical and emotional

When we asked "Are your problems primarily physical, emotional, or both" more than three-quarters of respondents said both.
it can be difficult to communicate about sexual problems

Just over 61% of respondents said they have been able to successfully communicate with their partner(s) about these issues.

Even fewer—only 45%—have been able to successfully discuss these problems with a healthcare provider.

discuss these problems with a healthcare provider.

there are resources that can help

Search for a support group

Find a certified menopause provider

Contact a sexuality counselor or therapist

Learn what to expect and how to manage sex safely

Get tips on healthy and safe sexual activity after cancer

Learn more at www.nccc-online.org