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“Symptomatic presentation of cervical cancer has not been studied in primary care.¹⁰ Precancerous lesions, such as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, do not appear to produce symptoms.¹¹ In secondary care studies of cancer, the main reported symptoms are inter-menstrual bleeding, post-coital bleeding and vaginal discharge.¹² However, inter-menstrual bleeding and post-coital bleeding are common complaints in primary care and usually have a benign cause.¹³ There are also many possible non-malignant different causes of vaginal discharge, with the initial focus being infections. These include vaginal candidiasis; half of the women consult with this at least once during their reproductive years.¹⁴”

“Gynaecological complaints are frequent in primary care, though the symptoms of possible cervical cancer only represent a small minority of the total. Primary care clinicians, who have young women presenting with relevant symptoms of cervical cancer, should consider visualization of the cervix by an appropriately trained clinician with an opportunistic cervical cytology.”

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