# Canadian Cancer Society Apologises for Using 'Cervix' Instead of 'Front Hole' in Communication



The Canadian Cancer Society has issued an apology for using the term "cervix" instead of a more inclusive term, "front hole," in its communication. The charity, headed by Andrea Seale, acknowledged the importance of inclusive language on a webpage dedicated to cervical cancer, particularly in the “Words Matter” section. The organization recognizes that non-binary individuals and transgender men might feel alienated by the term "cervix" and might prefer alternative terms.

The Society has stressed that anyone with a cervix, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, should undergo regular cervical cancer screenings, starting at age 25. This recommendation includes individuals taking testosterone, as hormone therapy can affect cervical tissue and test results.

The charity also pointed out the barriers faced by transgender and non-binary individuals when accessing healthcare, such as transphobia, lack of knowledgeable providers, and concerns about safety and discrimination. The Canadian Cancer Society’s stance has sparked mixed reactions on social media, with some praising the inclusivity and others criticizing the decision.

Additionally, the charity advised transgender women who have undergone bottom surgery to discuss cervical cancer screening with their doctors, as penile skin used to create a neo-cervix can contract HPV, potentially leading to cancer. The vaccine for HPV is estimated to be over 90% effective.

A similar situation occurred with Ovarian Cancer Action in the UK, which faced backlash for stating that anyone with ovaries, regardless of gender identity, can be at risk for ovarian cancer. TV presenter Piers Morgan was among those who criticized the statement, emphasizing that only women have ovaries according to conventional medical understanding. Ovarian cancer symptoms often mimic other conditions, leading to late diagnoses and highlighting the need for ongoing awareness efforts.