Background
The incidence of women with cervical cancer was 356 in Denmark in 2012, half of them were younger than 45 years. The five-year survival rate from cervical cancer is 64%. It is of great importance to assess the quality of life and late effects, the women struggle with, in order to plan rehabilitation interventions to this population. Furthermore self-efficacy could be important in the rehabilitation setting in order to assess the women’s extent of beliefs of the ability to complete tasks and reach new goals in life after cervical cancer treatment.

Objective
The purpose of this study was to describe health related quality of life, late effects and self-efficacy among women treated for cervical cancer at Odense University Hospital (OUH).

Conclusion
This study has shown that cervical cancer patients have several late effects that persists up to four years after the diagnosis. Especially problems with passing urine frequently, diarrhoea and sexual concerns. Rehabilitation for patients with cervical cancer has to be directed towards these problems.

Methods
All patients treated for cervical cancer at OUH from 2010 to June 2013, who were alive and without known relapse or metastasis, were invited to participate in this study. The participants were sent the questionnaires EORTC QLQ-30, EORTC QLQ CX24 and self-efficacy by mail.

Results
In total 107 were eligible to participate. The 86 women, who answered the questionnaire, were 55 years in average (21-80 years) when treated for cancer. Most women were living alone (64%). There were 35% current smokers and 34% former smokers.

Half of the women were not sexual active (48%). The most frequent physical problems were passing urine frequently (33%) and diarrhoea (21%).

This population had a self-efficacy score of 2.9. There were no significant difference according to age, cancer stage and time since diagnosis.

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Abstract

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