

**Patient
Information**

Information following a cervical cytology test

Introduction

You have had a HPV primary cervical screening test carried out today. This is not a test for cancer. This test will look for evidence of High Risk HPV (HR HPV) that can cause cervical cell changes (abnormal cells) on the cervix which can develop into cancer if left untreated. HPV testing helps identify who may be more at risk of developing cervical cell changes.

If you have a negative result for the most common types of HPV that cause cervical cancer, your risk of cervical cancer is very low and there is no need to check for abnormal cells; even if you have had these in the past. You will therefore return to regular screening.

If you have a positive result for HPV we will check the sample for abnormal cells, if these reveal abnormal cells then you will most likely be seen in the Colposcopy Clinic.

Cervical screening results

We know waiting for test results can make you feel anxious; however the results of your cervical screening will take up to 2 weeks to process.

An initial result letter will be sent to you and your GP from the screening department to make sure you know the result as soon as possible. Your doctor or nurse specialist will also write to you to confirm the result and explain if any further follow up may be required in the Colposcopy Clinic or with your GP.

1. **HPV negative** – this negative result means we will not do any further tests and it is highly unlikely that you will have any abnormal cervical cells. You will be recalled for screening in 3 to 5 years (depending on your age)

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Department

Gynaecology

Review due

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- 2. HPV Positive: no abnormal cells** – if your sample is HPV positive we also test it for abnormal cells. If none are found, your result will say you have HPV, but no abnormal cells.
You will be recalled for screening again, sooner than usual (your letter will explain when), so that we can recheck the activity of the HPV virus
- 3. HPV positive: abnormal cells found** – there are several grades of abnormal cells and some are more serious than others. Your result letter will explain what this means. You will need to be seen in the Colposcopy Clinic and you will be notified of this appointment in your letter
- 4. Inadequate result** – occasionally a sample may be called inadequate. This may be due to a technical problem, such as the laboratory are unable to get a valid HPV test result from your sample or cannot see if abnormal cells are present. An inadequate result will require waiting for a repeat screening test in 3 months to make sure there are enough cells again to get a sample

Contact information

If you have any questions about the biopsy or if you need advice, please contact the Colposcopy Clinic Advice Line below.

Please note we are unable to give out results over the phone.

Colposcopy Clinic Advice Line

Tel: 0300 422 2385

This is an answerphone service. Your call will be returned between 9:00am and 5:00pm

Appointments

Tel: 0300 422 2914

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

If you require urgent medical advice/assistance out of the above hours please contact either your GP, NHS 111 or nearest emergency department.

NHS 111

Tel: 111

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Further information

GOV.UK

Website: www.gov.uk/phe/cervical-screening-leaflet

NHS

Website: www.nhs.uk/cervical

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust

Website: www.jostrust.org.uk

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