

Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines

Screening initiation	Cervical cancer screening should be initiated at 21 years of age for women who are or have ever been sexually active.		
Screening interval	If cytology is normal, screening should be done every 3 years. If a woman is 'late' for a Pap test the next Pap is still in 3 years. The absence of T zone is not a reason to repeat a Pap test earlier than the recommended interval. See Management of Cytology Results.		
Discontinue screening	Screening may be discontinued at the age of 70 if there is an adequate negative cytology screening history in the previous 10 years (i.e., 3 or more negative cytology tests).		
Screening Pregnant Women	 Pregnant women should be screened according to the guidelines; however, care should be taken not to over-screen. Only conduct Pap tests during prenatal and postnatal visits if the woman is otherwise due for screening. If screening is due after 10 weeks of pregnancy it may be postponed to the six week postpartum visit due to the high rate of preterm birth in Nunavut. If a Pap is required, the cervixbrush may be used in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy, while the cytobrush (looks like a pipecleaner) should never be used and the spatula may be used at any time in pregnancy. 		
Screening Other Women with Special Circumstances	 Women who have been TREATED for cervical dysplasia (by LEEP, laser, , cryotherapy, cone, hysterectomy) or have a history of cancer of the cervix should receive annual screening for life from the cervix or vaginal vault. Immunocompromised women or those who are HIV positive should receive annual screening. Women who have had subtotal hysterectomy and retained their cervix should continue screening according to the guidelines. Women who are, or have been, sexually active should be screened, whether they have sex with women or with men. Women who have received the HPV vaccine should continue with screening. 		



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Management of Cytology Results*

Result	Recommended Management						
	For women < 30 years of age (HPV triage not recommended)						
Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significant (ASCUS)		Result: Negative	Repeat cytology in 6 months	Result: Negative	Routine screening in 3 years		
	Repeat cytology in 6 months			Result: ≥ ASCUS	Colposcopy		
		Result: ≥ ASCUS	Colposcopy				
	For women ≥ 30 years of age						
	Reflex HPV testing	Result: Negative	Repeat cytology in 12 months	Result: Negative	Routine screening in 3 years		
				Result: ≥ ASCUS	Colposcopy		
		Result: Positive	Colposcopy				
Atypical Squamous Cells – cannot exclude HSIL (ASC-H)		Refer for colposcopy and investigation.					
Low-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion (LSIL)		Repeat test twice at 6 month intervals. 2 abnormals (ASCUS or LSIL) within a 2 year period warrants colposcopy and investigation.					
High-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion (HSIL)		Refer for colposcopy and investigation.					
Atypical Glandular Cells (AGC), Atypical Endocervical Cells, Atypical Endometrial cells		Refer for colposcopy and investigation.					
Squamous Carcinoma, Adenocarcinoma, other Malignant Neoplasms		Refer for colposcopy and investigation.					
Unsatisfactory for evaluation		Repeat in three months with the exception of pregnant patients who should be retested after pregnancy. Inform woman repeat is not due to abnormal cytology.					
Satisfactory for Evaluation, no Transformation Zone Present		Routine screening in 3 years; no immediate recall required.					
Endometrial cells		Pre-menopausal women who are asymptomatic require no action (continue to follow usual screening guidelines)					
		Post-menopausal women require investigation, including adequate endometrial tissue sampling.					
		 Any woman with abnormal vaginal bleeding requires investigation, which should include adequate endometrial tissue sampling. 					

*Please note:

- The suspicious cervix (cervix appears abnormal on visual inspection) should be investigated colposcopically and/or biopsied regardless of the cytology findings.
- Abnormal bleeding at any time will require a Pap test and possible investigation.
- If a repeat Pap test is late, the period of time before the next test is unchanged.