

Fact Sheet

If you have been contacted about the results of a Pap test...

What does it mean?

If you have been contacted by your health care provider after a Pap test it does not mean you have cervical cancer – it does mean you need follow-up tests.

Why do I need more tests?

The Pap test found changes in the cells of your cervix which is the entrance to your womb. These cells may become cancerous over time so it is important to watch them carefully.

You may be asked to have Pap tests more frequently for a year or two to see if the cells change back to normal on their own.

On the other hand, you may be sent for a test called colposcopy to have a closer look at the cells on your cervix.

What is colposcopy?

Colposcopy is a test done in a similar way to a Pap test by a health care provider with special training.

It allows the specialist to see your cervix in more detail with a magnifying lens.

Like the Pap test, it may be slightly uncomfortable but should not be painful – talk with your health care provider about what to expect.

What happens after colposcopy?

You will meet with your health care provider after colposcopy to discuss the findings.

You may need a follow-up Pap test, another colposcopy or you may possibly need treatment depending on what is found.

How can I reduce my risk of cervical cancer?

If you smoke, quitting will reduce your risk of a number of cancers, including cervical cancer.

Use condoms to help reduce your risk.

For more information, please speak with your health care provider.