

Pap Test Results and Next Steps

A Pap test is a simple and effective way of checking cells from your cervix to see if they are normal or not. There are many reasons why the results might not be normal such as infections such as HPV. Follow up with your provider after your Pap as treatment may prevent cervical cancer.

Testing should begin between ages 21 and 25. **A positive test does not mean you have, or will get, cervical cancer.**

- 1. Result: NORMAL.** No abnormal cells were found in the sample of cells taken. Next steps...

Ages 21-29: Repeat the test in 3 years		
Age 30 & older	If HPV negative ... repeat Pap & HPV in 5 years. If Pap only, repeat in 3 years	If HPV positive (a high-risk HPV strain was found)... repeat the Pap & HPV test in 1 year -OR- have additional testing

- 2. Result: INCONCLUSIVE.** Some cells do not look completely normal. May be called **ASC-US (Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance)**. Next steps...

Age 21-24: Repeat Pap test in 1 year OR Have HPV test and if negative, return to regular screening schedule. If HPV test is positive, repeat the Pap in 1 year.
Age 25 & older: Test for HPV. If HPV positive: colposcopy*. If HPV negative, repeat test in 3 years -OR- repeat Pap test in 1 year

If test results list **Atypical Squamous Cells** – cannot rule out **high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (ASC-H)** or **Atypical Glandular Cells of undetermined significance (AGC)**, a colposcopy is usually done for further evaluation.

3. Result: ABNORMAL. Cell changes caused by HPV are present. Most women with abnormal cells do not have cancer. Cell changes may be due to irritation, infection or hormonal changes, but more severe abnormal cells may progress to cancer over time.

Abnormal results are broken down into low grade LSIL) and high grade (HSIL) changes. Next steps...

Ages 21-24 LSIL	Repeat Pap test in 12 months
Ages 25 & older LSIL with HPV+	Colposcopy
Ages 25 & older with LSIL and negative HPV	Repeat Pap and HPV tests
Age 21-24 HSIL	Colposcopy
Ages 25 & older HSIL	Colposcopy -OR- immediate treatment

* Colposcopy is a way of looking at the cervix through a special magnifying device called a colposcope. A colposcope can greatly enlarge the normal view. This exam allows your provider to find problems that cannot be seen by the eye alone. (The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions about Pap test results and HPV.