

Cervical Cancer Statistics:

- About 50% of women who are diagnosed with cervical cancer were never tested/screened
- HPV (human papillomavirus) is the cause of about 75% of cervical cancers
- First generation HPV vaccines target 70% of the infections that eventually develop into cervical cancer
- In 2016, an estimated 12,990 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and about 32% of these women died of the condition



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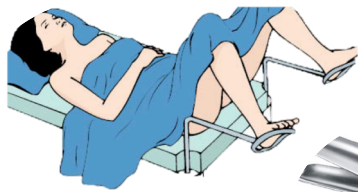
Women's Health

Pap Test

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Lithotomy Position



Speculum

What is a Pap Test?

The pap test is a screening for cervical cancer, and is also known as a pap smear. During the exam, the patient will be placed in lithotomy position where her feet are propped open. The health care provider will then use a speculum, a metal device, to open and examine the cervix and vagina. After widening the area, the health care provider is able to obtain cells from the cervix and surrounding areas. The cells are sent to the lab for testing, and the patient should receive her results within three weeks of the pap smear.



What is Cervical Cancer?

Cervical Cancer is cancer of the cervix, the lower portion of the uterus. The main cause of cervical cancer is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) that is spread via sexual intercourse. Other causes of cervical cancer includes smoking, HIV, using birth control for a long period of time, giving birth 3 or more times, and having multiple sexual partners. Cervical Cancer can be screened through pap smears and the HPV test. The HPV vaccine is recommended around ages 11 and 12 to prevent cervical cancer. Cervical cancer may go undiagnosed due to very little signs and symptoms. Abnormal discharge and bleeding can be symptomatic and may indicate that further testing needs to be done.



When to get tested:

- The first pap test should be at age 21 or within 3 years of engaging in sexual activity
- Ages 21-65: pap test is completed every 3 years if patient receives normal results
- The pap test can be stopped after age 65 if the patient has history of normal cervical cells and has had three consecutive negative screenings

How to Prepare:

- 48 hours prior to a pap test:
 - Avoid intercourse
 - Avoid use of a tampon
 - Do not douche vagina
 - Do not apply any creams, ointments or jelly to the vagina
- A pap test should not be scheduled during the time of the menstrual cycle.