

## Department of Genitourinary Medicine

# Cervical smear (also called cervical cytology, 'pap' smear)

The purpose of this leaflet is to give you some information about the results of the cervical smear test we performed.

### Results of the test

The result of your cervical smear is explained below:

- **'Normal'**  
We would advise a repeat smear in three years.
- **'Inadequate or Scanty'**  
Sometimes too few cells are collected when the smear is taken and the laboratory has difficulty assessing the specimen. The smear should therefore be repeated.
- **'Blood Stained'**  
Occasionally, taking a smear may cause slight bleeding of the cervix. The presence of blood makes it difficult for the laboratory to assess the smear and a repeat will be requested.
- **'Borderline Changes'**  
This means that some of the cervical cells show possible minor changes. Sometimes these are related to wart virus infection (see below). A repeat smear will be requested in six months.
- **'Koilocytosis or HPV Infection'**  
This suggests that some of the cervical cells have been infected with the wart virus (also called human papillomavirus or HPV). This is a common infection and usually clears without treatment. We would advise a repeat smear in six months.
- **'Dyskaryosis'**  
This is the name given to changes in cells which, if left for a long time (in most cases many years), may possibly progress to cancer of the cervix. It does **not** mean that you have cancer – indeed many of these changes return

to normal. There are three grades of dyskaryosis and these vary appreciably in their ability to progress. Dyskaryosis is often associated with wart virus infection (see above). If your smear shows 'dyskaryosis' and you have had previous abnormalities, you may be asked to have a repeat smear in six months or possibly attend the gynaecology department for a colposcopy. The colposcope is a magnifying system, like a microscope which allows the doctor to examine the cervix in detail and helps to identify possibly abnormal areas.

## Please remember

- An abnormal smear does **not** mean you have cancer.
- The reason for performing a smear is to **prevent** cervical cancer.
- There is evidence to suggest that smoking increases the risk of developing cervical cancer.
- Cervical cancer is a preventable disease – have your close friends and relatives had a cervical smear?

## For Further Information

- [www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/in-04.html](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/in-04.html)
- You may also find it helpful to refer to the Department of Health leaflet published in association with the NHS Cancer Screening Programme titled 'Cervical screening – The Facts'.

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

## Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

## Cantonese

तमने आ माहिती बीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभजी शकाय जेवा माध्यम (ओडीओ डोमेन्ट)मां जेठती छोय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

## Gujarati

تکایه پرسیار بکه نه گهر نه وزانیاریهت دهوی به زمانیکی تر . به بیتی گه وره یانیش به شیوهی دهنگ

## Kurdish

آگراپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پروگراموں کو برائے مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

## Urdu



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. Please do not smoke anywhere on the site.  
For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

## Document history

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