

Gynaecologic Cytology

Cervical Smears

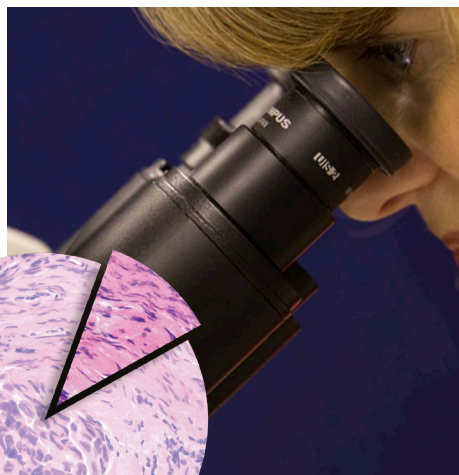
The processing Laboratory uses the Hologic Thin-Prep liquid-base Cytology technique, for cervical smear testing (Pap test). HPV DNA testing, which has become an essential adjunct to the Pap test, can also be performed on the same sample as can testing for other sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea.

These additional tests are requested by your gynaecologist or general practitioner.

CPS monitors turnaround time for gynaecologic cytology specimens as one of its KPI.

The cervical smear (Pap test) is a widely used screening test that can detect potentially precancerous and cancerous processes in the cervical canal of the female reproductive system.

Changes to the cervix can be treated effectively, and early detection of cervical cancer can save lives. The test may also detect infections and other abnormalities of the cervix and endometrium.



In taking a cervical smear, a speculum is used to open the vagina and allow the collection of cells from the cervix, the entrance to the uterus. The cells are collected using a brush or spatula, processed in the laboratory and then examined under a microscope to look for abnormalities.

The test aims to detect potentially precancerous changes, which are usually caused by sexually transmitted strains of human papilloma viruses (HPV).

It is recommended that females who have had sex (whether or not they are currently sexually active), seek regular smear testing. Guidelines on frequency vary. You should consult your gynaecologist, general practitioner, family planning clinic or well woman clinic for further information on frequency of smear taking and other aspects of cervical smear testing.

Cervical smear testing is most reliable when a satisfactory sample is obtained on a regular basis. These results must be interpreted in the context of previous results and the current clinical appearance of the cervix. If an abnormality is found in the smear test and the pathologist recommends a further examination, the patient may be referred for more detailed inspection of the cervix by colposcopy.

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