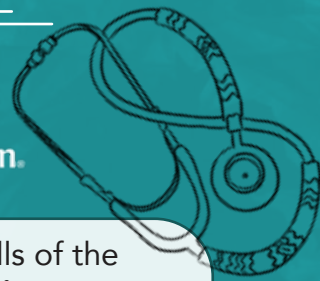


MY PAP RESULTS



American Indian
Cancer Foundation.



Cervical cancer screenings are done to detect abnormalities in the cells of the cervix such as precancer and cancer. **Native women are nearly twice as likely¹ to develop cervical cancer compared to other racial/ethnic groups.**

Two screening tests can help detect cervical cancer:

- A PAP test (PAP smear) looks at cells from the surface of the cervix to look for abnormalities
- A Human Papillomavirus Test looks for the presence of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (a group of viruses that can cause cancers of the cervix, vulva, vagina, and oropharynx)

A PAP test is recommended for all women between the ages of 21 - 64. If you are 30 or older you may either get a PAP test, an HPV test, or you can opt for both tests together. According to national guidelines, all individuals who have a cervix should get screened, including transgender, gender nonconforming, and Two Spirit patients.

Your PAP Test result may be described as:

Normal:

- Negative for intraepithelial lesion or malignancy (NILM) - Normal: The cells appear normal.

Abnormal:

- *Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US)*. Doctors may use different words (equivocal, inconclusive) to describe this particular finding, but they all mean the same thing: that your cervical cells look mildly abnormal. This can be due to an HPV infection, yeast infection, bacterial vaginosis, or associated with normal menopausal changes.
- *Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL)*. There are changes of the cervix that are typically associated with an HPV infection.
- *High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL)*. There are changes of the cervix that are more concerning in nature as the cells appear different from normal and call for additional clinical follow-up.
- *Atypical Squamous Cells – High grade cannot be excluded (ASC-H)*. The cells look abnormal and could be more high-grade in nature.
- *Atypical Glandular Cells (AGC)*. This PAP result requires additional clinical work up. It could mean that there is the presence of abnormality from the uterus or abnormal cells from the lining of the cervix. Conditions associated with this result include cancer, infection, inflammation, pregnancy, or previous radiation.

My PAP test was abnormal: now what?

A follow-up test may be needed depending upon the PAP test results and recommendations of your health care provider.

It is important to follow up on ALL abnormal PAP test results in order to know your health status.

Not all abnormal test results indicate cancer.

#TurquoiseThursday

PAP and HPV tests can be done at doctors' offices, clinics, and community health centers. An OB/GYN (obstetrics/gynecology) or primary care provider also offers these services. If you don't have a primary care provider or doctor you see regularly, you can find a clinic near you that offers cervical cancer screening by contacting:

- Your state or local health department
- The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) or call 1-800-232-4636. NBCCEDP provides low-income, uninsured, and underserved women access to timely cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services
- A Planned Parenthood clinic, or call 1-800-230-7526