

Regular cervical screening tests are the best way to prevent cervical cancer in all women who have ever been sexually active, whether you have had the HPV vaccine or not.

CERVICAL SCREENING TEST
What do my results mean?

Low risk



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What is a Cervical Screening Test?

The new cervical screening test looks for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) virus. If HPV is present in the cells of the cervix, the sample will be automatically re-examined for any cell changes.

30% more cases of cervical cancer will be prevented with the new National Cervical Screening Program compared with the Pap smear program.

Cervical Screening Tests and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

We now know that infection over many years with certain types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer.

Most sexually active people will be infected at some stage, as HPV is spread through genital skin to skin contact during sex. HPV usually has no symptoms and is cleared from the body naturally.

There are 14 HPV types that have the potential to cause cervical cancer.

If a woman has a persistent infection with one of these HPV types, then cell changes may occur in the cervix. It can take 10-20 years on average for this cell change to potentially become cancerous.

If HPV is found, then the cells of the cervix will be examined for any changes, informing what further investigation and treatment may be required.

What does my test result mean?

Your HPV test is **negative**. This means that no HPV was found in your sample and that your chances of developing cell changes that require treatment in the next 5 years are extremely low. For that reason, you should wait for 5 years before having another cervical screening test.

YOUR NEXT CERVICAL SCREENING TEST IS DUE IN 5 YEARS.

Remember: even if you have had the HPV vaccine, you will still need the 5 yearly cervical screening test.

If at any time you experience bleeding, pain or discharge, it is very important that you see your health practitioner as soon as possible, even if your last cervical screening test was normal.

VCS Pathology is a not for profit organisation delivering public health initiatives to reduce sexually transmissible infections and cancer.

Your information and privacy

VCS Pathology appreciates that it holds sensitive personal health information. We have strict confidentiality practices in place to protect your privacy.

How is this personal information collected?

Your information is collected from the practitioner who orders your test. If you provide information directly to us, this may also be entered on your record.

How may personal information be used?

Your personal information may be used for:

- Reporting test results to you and your practitioner
- Charging for services (where applicable)
- To remind you or your practitioner if you are overdue for a cervical screening test or other test.

Does my information have to be provided to Medicare Australia?

In order for the National Cervical Screening Program to develop an accurate picture of cervical screening tests in Australia, VCS sends information (name, address, date of birth and Medicare number) to Medicare Australia. This is to monitor and improve the cervical screening program.

However, the choice is yours. If you do not want your information to be sent to Medicare Australia, please notify us by email at directorat@vcs.org.au.

Our full privacy policy can be viewed on our website www.vcs.org.au or may be obtained by telephoning VCS on (03) 9250 0300.

For further information call VCS Pathology on 1800 611 635 or visit www.vcspathology.org.au