

❖ Clarification of Concept

❖ Do women who no longer have sex life or menopause women need to have Pap smear test?

Since after being infected with HPV will take 10~20 years or even longer to develop into cervical cancer, it is still necessary for women who no longer have sex life or menopause women to receive regular Pap smear test.

❖ Do women without sexual experience need to perform Pap smear test?

Probability of women without sexual experience to develop cervical cancer is very low. Therefore, she may choose not to do so. But if there is a family member who suffers from cervical intraepithelial neoplasm or cervical cancer, she must consider accepting Pap smear test whether she has sexual experience or not.

❖ Is it necessary to have Pap smear test after hysterectomy?

- If you have hysterectomy due to cervical cancer or intraepithelial neoplasm, you should have regular Pap smear test because your risk of suffering from carcinoma of vagina is higher.
- If you have hysterectomy due to benign disease of the uterus, we recommend that you consult your physician. Ask him whether it is necessary to accept regular Pap smear test.

❖ Treatment of cervical disorder

If the result of Pap smear test was intraepithelial neoplasia, most of the cases only require simple clinical operation to get cured. If it was proven to be cancer after Pap smear test, as long it was discovered early, the rate of healing is very high. Cure rate of carcinoma in situ is almost 100%. Therefore, as long as you receive treatment on time, the result will considerably be optimistic.

Your Health is Our Concern
Bureau of Health Promotion, Department of
Health

Pap Smear Test The Gate Keeper of Women's Health



✧ Why is Pap smear test important?

Pap smear test enables you to discover cervical cancer earlier and receive early treatment. Foreign studies showed that a large scale of Pap smear screening can reduce the occurrence and death rate of cervical cancer by 60~90%. Cervical cancer is a cancer common in women. Around 2,000 people in Taiwan suffer from cervical cancer each year and resulting to around 900 deaths, which is a disease that shouldn't be overlooked carelessly by women.

✧ Who need to receive Pap smear test?

A large part of cervical cancer results from infection of HPV through sexual intercourse. All women who had sexual experience may possibly suffer from cervical cancer, especially those over the age of 30. Hence, we commend that women over the age of 30 receive Pap smear test at least once every three years.

✧ How is Pap smear test performed?

The course of Pap smear test is simple. Mostly you will not feel pain. In the course of collecting specimen, a vaginal dilator is inserted into the vagina, using a small wooden stick or brush to scrape some exfoliative epithelial cell on the cervix, rub it on the glass, undergo dyeing, and then inspect through a microscope to see whether there is suspected cancer cell existing or not.

✧ What precaution should I take before receiving Pap smear test?

Pre-examination precautions:

1. Do not wash the vagina.
2. Avoid tub bath.
3. Do not insert suppositories.
4. Do not have sexual intercourse night before.
5. Avoid menstrual period.

✧ What to do is the result of Pap smear test is abnormal?

Having abnormal result of Pap smear test doesn't mean you already have cancer. You must see a physician to perform further colposcopy and section to confirm whether you have cervical cancer or not.

- Reminder, any item of screening will have false-negative cases, so even if the result of Pap smear test is normal see a doctor immediately if there is any abnormality.

Result of Pap Smear Test and Subsequent Examination

Result	Subsequent Examination
1. Normal	Regular Pap smear test (at least once every three years)
2. Unclear significant of atypical cellular change*	Perform Pap smear test or HPV test after 6 months
3. Mild intraepithelial neoplasia.	Perform Pap smear test or colposcopy after 6 months
4. Severe intraepithelial neoplasia.	Colposcopy, section/conization
5. Invasive cancer.	

Subsequent examination should be conducted as per physician's instruction.

- * Cellular change already exceeding the proper form of benign cell is till inadequate to list it. as intraepithelial neoplasia.