



Your Cervical Screening Test result

What does it mean?

Your Cervical Screening Test

There are two options for your Cervical Screening Test (CST). You can have your healthcare provider collect your sample, or you can collect your own sample.

A CST looks for human papillomavirus (HPV), which if left undetected can cause cervical cancer.

Getting your test results

Your healthcare provider is the best source of information about cervical screening and your test results.

Make sure you agree on a way to get your test results with your healthcare provider. Results are usually available in about two weeks.

What do my test results mean?

If HPV is not found

If your results show that you do not have HPV, your healthcare provider will recommend you return for screening in five years.

If your test result is unsatisfactory

This means the sample could not be properly examined by the laboratory. Your healthcare provider will recommend you repeat the test.

If HPV is found

If your results show that you have HPV, your healthcare provider will discuss the next steps with you (continued overleaf).

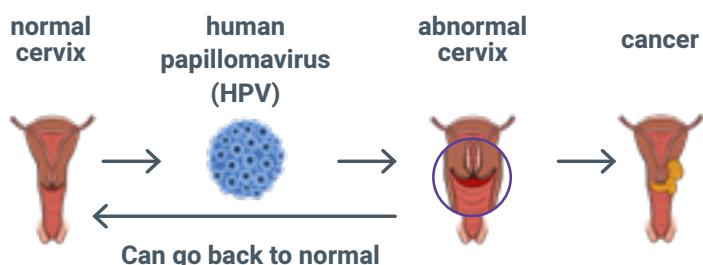


What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is the virus that causes most abnormal cervical cell changes and almost all cervical cancers. Many people will have HPV and never know, as there are usually no symptoms.

There are many types of HPV and most are cleared by the body within one to two years.

If the body does not clear HPV, it can cause abnormal cervical cell changes. If left undetected and/or untreated, these changes can develop into cervical cancer.



If HPV is found

Depending on how your test was taken you may need to:

- **Return to have a cervical sample collected by your healthcare provider**

If you collected your own sample and HPV was found, you will be recommended to have a cervical sample taken by your healthcare provider. This will check for any abnormal cervical cell changes.

- **Repeat the test in 12 months**

This means your test found a type of HPV that needs to be monitored. Most HPV infections are cleared by the body within one to two years.

A repeat test will check that your body has cleared the HPV infection.

- **See a specialist**

This means you have a type of HPV and/or abnormal cervical cell changes that need further investigation. This does not mean you have cervical cancer.

Your healthcare provider will refer you to a specialist for further investigation. This is called a colposcopy. Your healthcare provider can give you more information about a colposcopy.

Things to remember

- Regular cervical screening is your best protection against cervical cancer.
- Attend all recommended follow-up and specialist appointments.
- A CST looks for HPV, which if left undetected can cause cervical cancer.
- There are two ways to have a CST. You can have your healthcare provider collect your sample, or you can collect your own sample.
- Make sure you agree on a way to get your test results with your healthcare provider.

See your healthcare provider if you have any of these symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding after sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Vaginal bleeding after menopause
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Continual pain during sex

Where can I get more information?

Talk with your healthcare provider or contact:

National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR)

The NCSR keeps a confidential electronic record of Cervical Screening Test results.

To update your contact details, or to find out when your next Cervical Screening Test is due, call 1800 627 701 or visit www.ncsr.gov.au.

WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (WACCPP)

The WACCPP can provide general information on cervical screening, including services in your local area.

Phone: (08) 6458 1740 **Email:** cervicalscreening@health.wa.gov.au

Website: healthywa.wa.gov.au/cervicalscreening



The information provided is for information purposes only. If you are a patient using this publication, you should seek assistance from a healthcare professional when interpreting these materials and applying them to your individual circumstances.

