



A Cervical Screening Test result

What does it mean?

This resource provides information to help you understand your Cervical Screening Test (CST) results.

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

There are two ways to have a Cervical Screening Test.

You can:

1. Have a healthcare provider collect a cervical sample
2. Collect your own vaginal sample

Getting your test results

Your test results are usually available in about two weeks. Talk with your healthcare provider about how to receive them.

What do my test results mean?

If HPV *is not* found

If your results show that you do not have HPV, you will be recommended to return for another CST in five years.

If HPV *is* found

If your test results show that you do have HPV, your healthcare provider will discuss the next steps with you. This will depend on the type of HPV found and how your test was taken.

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

• Return to have a cervical sample taken

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



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.

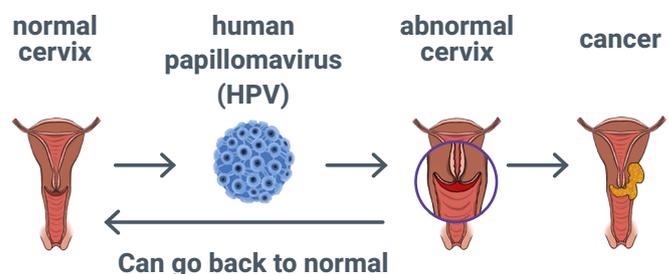
There are many types of HPV and most are cleared by the body within one to two years.

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.

• 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 certain type of HPV and possible abnormal cervical cell changes that need further investigation. This does not mean you have cervical cancer.

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

If your test result is unsatisfactory

This means the sample could not be properly examined by the laboratory. You will be recommended to repeat the test.

Things to remember

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

Where can I get more information?

Talk with your healthcare provider or contact:

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

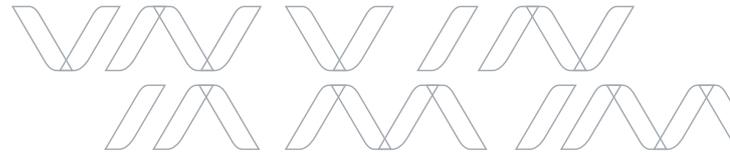
Email: cervicalscreening@health.wa.gov.au

Website: healthywa.wa.gov.au/cervicalscreening



See your healthcare provider immediately or let them know at your appointment 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



National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR)

The NCSR is a confidential database of cervical test results. The NCSR sends letters to invite you to screen and remind you if you are overdue for a test.

The NCSR can:

- Update your contact details
- Look up when your next test is due

Phone: 1800 627 701

Website: www.ncsr.gov.au

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

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