

The Cervical Screening Test

Information for women after treatment for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) at a colposcopy clinic



what your results mean ✓
what to do next ✓
who you can talk to ✓

What happens after cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) treatment?

After treatment for CIN cells of the cervix (the neck of the womb) you will have a test to check that your treatment has been successful. This test will take place about six months after your treatment. It will be carried out at your GP practice, where you usually have your cervical screening test taken or occasionally back at a colposcopy clinic.

This test includes:

- checking the cells from your cervix (the same as a cervical screening test)
- a test for the human papilloma virus (HPV).

Only one sample will be taken. This will be used to check the cells from your cervix and test for HPV.

What is CIN?

CIN is the name for changes found in the cells of the cervix. There are two grades of CIN – high-grade (CIN2 and 3) and low-grade (CIN1). Additionally, there are other types of cervical abnormality.

What is HPV?

HPV is a very common virus which, although usually harmless, can damage cells – including those in the cervix. It is estimated that 8 out of 10 people in Scotland catch HPV at some time in their lives. Many people have HPV without knowing because there are usually no symptoms.

There are over 100 different types of HPV. Usually your body's immune system fights off HPV infections naturally, but some types of HPV can be harder to get rid of. Around 15 HPV types can damage the cells in the cervix and cause changes that can develop into CIN. CIN is detected by cervical screening and colposcopy and may require treatment. If left untreated, CIN can develop into cancer over many years.

How do people get HPV?

You can be exposed to HPV by being sexually intimate with another person who has the virus, as HPV is mainly spread by skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity.

5,000
LIVES SAVED

Cervical screening saves
around 5,000 lives every
year in the UK

8^{OUT}
OF 10Cervical screening
prevents 8 out of 10
cancers from developing**Why am I being tested for HPV following treatment for CIN?**

Until recently, women treated for CIN had a cervical screening test every year, for five years, following treatment. After this they returned to routine three yearly screening. The HPV test is important because we now know that women who have a test six months after treatment that shows normal cervical cells and no HPV (HPV negative) can safely return to routine three yearly screening. This means that women can return to routine screening more than four years earlier than before.

My letter says that I have no changes.

If HPV is not found six months after treatment and there are no changes in the cells in your cervix, you will return to routine three yearly screening. This means that your previous CIN treatment has been successful.

My letter says that there were not enough cells.

Your cervical screening test result may show that there were not enough cells in the sample for the

laboratory to examine. This is not unusual and you will be invited back for a repeat test.

My letter says that I have changes.

If HPV is found six months after treatment and there are changes in the cells in your cervix, you will be invited back to the colposcopy clinic. Please note that although 1 in 5 women will be invited back to the colposcopy clinic, only a few will need another treatment. It can take longer than six months for your immune system to clear HPV after treatment.

Where can I find out more about HPV?

If you would like more information about HPV testing or anything else mentioned in this leaflet, you can talk to your practice nurse or staff at the colposcopy clinic. There is also information about cervical screening and HPV on the NHS inform website at www.nhsinform.co.uk and the British Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology website at www.BSCCP.org.uk

This publication is available online at www.healthscotland.com or telephone **0131 536 5500**.

Chinese

您也可以登录 www.healthscotland.com 浏览本刊物，或拨打电话到 **0131 536 5500** 查询。

Polish

Ta publikacja jest dostępna online na stronie www.healthscotland.com lub pod numerem telefonu **0131 536 5500**, gdzie można także zgłaszać wszelkie zapytania.

Urdu

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یا کسی سوالات کے لیے **0131 536 5500** پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

This resource is available in Urdu, Chinese and Polish, and in an Easy Read format. NHS Health Scotland is happy to consider requests for other languages and formats. Please contact **0131 536 5500** or email nhs.healthscotland-alternativeformats@nhs.net

Want to know more?

Talk to your nurse or doctor, visit www.nhsinform.co.uk or phone the NHS inform helpline **0800 22 44 88** (textphone 18001 0800 22 44 88; the helpline also provides an interpreting service)

