

What happens after a colposcopy?

The specialist may recommend the following:

- You return to your regular cervical screening schedule;
- Repeat Pap testing; or
- Repeat colposcopy or other treatment.

Cell changes can often be treated successfully so that cancer does not develop.



The Screening Program for Cervical Cancer (SPCC)

SPCC is a program of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency dedicated to preventing cervical cancer.

The program:

- Provides education about cervical screening and informs women and people with a cervix aged 25-69 when they are due for a Pap test;
- Notifies participants of their Pap and HPV test results; and
- Works with health care providers to support appropriate follow-up of abnormal results.

For more information, please contact the SPCC:

Website: saskcancer.ca/screening

Telephone: **1-800-667-0017**

To continue to receive communication from the SPCC, it is important that you update any address changes.

Contact eHealth by calling **1-800-667-7551**, emailing change@ehealthsask.ca, or online at ehealthsask.ca.



SaskCancer.ca



Understanding Your Cervical Screening Results:

Pap and HPV Test Results

Screening Program for Cervical Cancer

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Cervical screening includes Pap testing and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing. The lab automatically completes an HPV test on your Pap test sample, depending on your age and Pap test result. This combined HPV and Pap testing system helps your health care provider recommend appropriate follow-up.

What is Human Papillomavirus?

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Most sexually active people will have at least one HPV infection at some point.

HPV is passed from one person to another through any skin-to-skin sexual contact below the waistline with fingers, mouths, shared sex toys, or other body parts, even without penetration.

There are 'low-risk' and 'high-risk' types of HPV. High-risk types can cause changes in the cells of the cervix. These changes can progress over the years from precancerous cell changes into cervical cancer if left undetected and untreated. Getting regular cervical screening can help prevent cervical cancer.

What does an abnormal Pap result mean?

An abnormal result means some of the cells of the cervix look different from normal cells. This does not mean that you have cervical cancer.

What does a negative HPV result mean?

A negative HPV result means that you do not have high-risk HPV. Your risk of developing cervical cancer before your next Pap test is the same as if you had a normal Pap test result.

You can return to your regular cervical screening schedule.

What does an HPV no result mean?

An HPV no result means the lab could not test the sample for HPV. You will need to have a repeat HPV test as soon as possible. Contact your health-care provider to discuss your result and a repeat test.

What does a positive HPV result mean?

A positive HPV result means that you have high-risk HPV. It does not mean you have or will develop cervical cancer. High-risk types can cause changes in the cells of the cervix. These changes can progress over the years from precancerous cell changes into cervical cancer if left undetected and untreated. It is important to follow up with your health-care provider, who will refer you to a specialist for a colposcopy.

What is a colposcopy?

A colposcopy procedure examines the cervix using a microscope called a colposcope. It is performed by a specialist who will look for any abnormal cells on the cervix.

An instrument called a speculum will be inserted into your vagina to allow the cervix to be seen.

Then, a solution will be applied to the cervix to help highlight any abnormal areas. If needed, the specialist will take a small sample of the tissue. The sample will be sent to the lab for examination to help determine if you need further treatment.

