



Cervical Screening Test result

What does it mean?

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

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

This resource provides information to help you understand your CST results.

Getting 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?

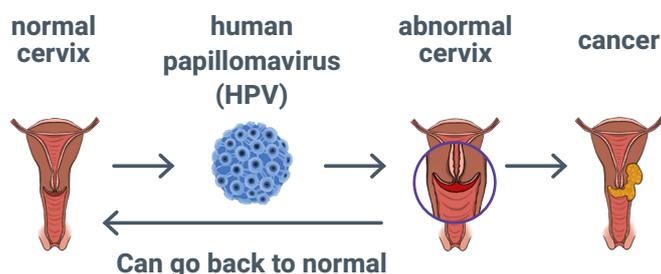
If HPV is not found

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

If HPV is found

If your results show that you do have HPV, your healthcare provider will discuss the next steps with you.

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



What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is the virus that causes most abnormal cervical cell changes and most 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.

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

- **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 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 in 6-12 weeks.

Things to remember

- Regular cervical screening is your best protection against cervical cancer.
- A Cervical Screening Test looks for HPV, which if left undetected can cause cervical cancer
- There are two ways to have a Cervical Screening Test. You can have a 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.
- Attend all recommended follow-up and specialist appointments.
- If you have questions, talk to 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 if at any age you have symptoms, such as:

- 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

*if your gender is listed as 'male' with Medicare, you won't automatically receive an invitation from the NCSR. You will need to book your first Cervical Screening Test with a trusted healthcare provider. Once you've had your first test, you will be added to the Register and receive reminders.

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