

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING (Pap Test)

- Based on solid evidence, cigarette smoking, both active and passive, increases the risk of cervical cancer.
- Among HPV-infected women, those who used oral contraceptives for 5 to 9 years have approximately three times the incidence of invasive cancer, and those who used them for 10 years or longer have approximately four times the risk.
- Cervical cancer is seen more frequently in women with sexual activity at an early age and with multiple partners.
- Can cancer of the cervix be prevented? Most cervical cancer can be prevented. There are 2 ways to prevent this disease. The first way is to find and treat pre-cancers before they become cancer, and the second is to prevent the pre-cancers.
- Women 65 years of age or older (and no abnormal tests in the last 10 years) may choose to stop having the test. But women who have had cervical cancer or who have other risk factors should keep on having the test as long as they are in good health.
- Women 30 and older who have had three normal Pap tests in a row can now have one every three years. Women should continue to have the test annually if there is a family history of cervical cancer or if their physician feels there is evidence to do so.
- Women who have had a total hysterectomy (removal of the uterus and cervix) may also choose to stop having the test unless the surgery was done as a treatment for cervical cancer or pre-cancer. Women who have had a simple hysterectomy (the cervix was not removed) should continue to follow the guidelines above.
- Some women believe that they can stop having Pap tests once they have stopped having children. This is not correct. They should continue to follow American Cancer Society guidelines.
- Cancer of the cervix (also called *cervical cancer*) begins in the lining of the cervix. This cancer forms slowly. First, some cells begin to change from normal to pre-cancer and then to cancer. This can take many years, but sometimes it happens faster. These changes may be called *dysplasia*. They can be found by the Pap test and may need to be treated to prevent cancer.

- How is cancer of the cervix found? Early cervical pre-cancers or cancers often have no signs or symptoms. That's why it's important for women to have regular Pap tests. Symptoms often do not start until the cancer is further along and has spread to nearby areas.
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CHLAMYDIA SCREENING

- [Chlamydia](#) is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which can damage a woman's reproductive organs. Even though symptoms of chlamydia are usually mild or absent, serious complications that cause irreversible damage, including infertility, can occur "silently" before a woman ever recognizes a problem.
- Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States.
- Chlamydia is known as a "silent" disease because the majority of infected people have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear within 1 to 3 weeks after exposure.
- Chlamydia can be easily treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Most people who have chlamydia don't know it since the disease often has no symptoms.
- Pelvic inflammatory disease is a serious medical condition, which occurs in 10% to 15% of untreated Chlamydia cases and can lead to sterility
- Chlamydia infection is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Sexually active individuals and individuals with multiple partners are at highest risk.
- Chlamydia is a disease caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It is most commonly sexually transmitted.
- Early antibiotic treatment is extremely successful and may prevent the development of long-term complications. Untreated infection, however, may lead to PID (pelvic inflammatory disease), scarring, and ultimately infertility.
- Because many people with chlamydia may not have symptoms, sexually active adults should be screened periodically for the infection.