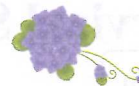




Points to note after the Cervical Smear



Important:

It is common and normal to have slight vaginal bleeding in the first two days after the cervical smear. If bleeding becomes severe or lasts more than two days, please phone the Maternal & Child Health Centre (MCHC) for follow up or seek medical advice from your family doctor.

Understanding the cervical smear result:

- ◆ A “negative” or “normal” result means that there were no abnormal cell changes detected in your cervical smear specimen.
- ◆ A “positive” or “abnormal” result usually means that there are some changes in the cells of your cervix which might need further follow-up or investigation. It does not necessarily mean that you already have cancer.

Cervical screening is not 100% accurate

As with any other screening tests, the cervical screening test is not 100% accurate. Different researches have shown that there may be 5-20% inaccuracy.

The test may sometimes **miss a real abnormality** (false negative) or **wrongly classify normal cells as abnormal** (false positive). Possible causes are:

1. The quality of the cell sample is affected due to:




- Before the test:
- ◆ sexual intercourse ;
 - ◆ insertion of pessaries or spermicides ;
 - ◆ douching (shower and bath would not affect the quality) ;
- During the test:
- ◆ vaginal discharge caused by a vaginal infection;
 - ◆ Menstrual blood.

2. Sample handling errors.

3. Abnormal cervical cells are situated at a site which is difficult to reach inside the cervical canal.

- Although cervical screening does not have 100% accuracy, this is not a cause for worry. Cervical cancer normally takes 5 to 10 years to develop.
- **REGULAR cervical screening** can prevent the development of 90% or more of the cervical cancers.
- Even if the previous smear is normal, women should still continue with **regular cervical screening**.

Notification and follow-up of cervical smear result:

| | Result | You will inform by |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Negative or Normal |  You will receive a letter or an email from the Cervical Screening Programme within 3 months . |
| 2 | Negative or Normal AND the sample shows the presence of Candida or Bacterial Vaginosis |  You will receive a notification letter and related information leaflet from the MCHC concerning Candida or Bacterial Vaginosis within 1 month .* (Please note that the Maternal and Child Health Centre would not inform you by phone) |
| 3 | Positive or Abnormal |  The MCHC staff will inform you by phone within 2 to 3 weeks to arrange a follow-up appointment for you.* |

You may also view your result online by logging onto the “Cervical Screening Information System” www.csis.gov.hk using your pre-set login name and password.

* About 3 months after the test, you will also receive a result notification letter or an e-mail sent by the Cervical Screening Programme.

Booking your next Cervical Smear Test:

- ◆ If you have received a letter showing normal result, please book your next cervical smear appointment through the hotline 3166 6631 one month before the recommended due date.
- ◆ You are encouraged to have the cervical smear test at the same MCHC in order to facilitate tracking of your medical and smear history.
- ◆ If you are informed by phone to come back for further follow-up, we will arrange the appointment for you during the following times :

Phone no. of MCHC :

**MCHCs only provide cervical smear test but not routine vaginal examination.*

**Please seek advice from general outpatient clinic or private doctors if you have abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge.*

Please refer to the “Cervical Screening Programme” booklet or log onto <http://www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk> for more information.



Cervical Screening Programme – Registration Notes

Notes to Applicant

1. Eligibility: women who receive cervical screening may register with the Cervical Screening Programme.
2. Registration is free of charge.
3. With your test results provided to Cervical Screening Information System by the service providers and laboratories, privileges of joining the Programme include the following:
 - you can view your past test results in the Cervical Screening Information System through the internet (www.csis.gov.hk)
 - reminder letters will be sent to you before your routine screening is due in the future
 - service providers may provide better care to you by having access to your previous test results
4. **Please note that you have to arrange for cervical screening or related tests yourself with your service providers after registering with the Cervical Screening Programme.**
5. If Hong Kong address is not provided, we will not be able to send letters to you by post (including Account Opening Letter, Reminder Letter, Password Retrieval Letter, etc.). We may call you to arrange collection of Account Opening Letter or Password Retrieval Letter at the office of Cervical Screening Programme by yourself. However, if you cannot provide a Hong Kong contact telephone number, we will not be able to call you.

Terms and Conditions

1. You should inform us of any change of personal information using the Information Update Form.
2. **You should bring along your Authorization Code (which will be sent to you later) when you visit your service provider for cervical screening or related tests.** This may facilitate your service provider to view your past test results.
3. The Cervical Screening Information System is not meant to serve as a substitute for professional medical advice or to replace any relationship with your doctor. For any medical concerns, including follow-up and treatment plans, you should always consult your health service providers. The Department of Health is not liable for any damages or harms as a consequence of any misuse of the Cervical Screening Information System, or any errors or omissions in your records.

Personal Information Collection Statement

We shall keep your personal data confidential at all times. Our policies and practices with respect to the collection, use, retention, disclosure, transfer, security and access of personal data will be in accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) and are as set out in this Statement.

By signing your agreement to this Statement in the Registration Form, you have authorized any Services within the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the public hospitals under its management, any entities (including subsidiaries) owned/controlled by the Hospital Authority, private hospitals and clinics, and any third parties as appropriate to provide your personal data (including health information) to the Cervical Screening Programme of the Department of Health. Such personal data will be used for the purposes stated below.

Purpose of Collection

Your personal data and health information provided to the Cervical Screening Information System, which is maintained by the Department of Health, will be used for the following purposes:

- a. Recording and transferring of your personal data and health information (collected at anytime from your registration with this Programme until your withdrawal) for continuity of care or reference by other medical professionals who provide care to you (if you withdraw from this Programme, your record will be retained but only for internal use and access by the Department of Health);
- b. Sending reminder letters to you;
- c. Tracing defaulter for follow-up and treatment;
- d. Preparing statistics for research or teaching purposes;
- e. For quality assurance of the Programme; and
- f. Investigating and following up matters related to the Programme;

The provision of personal data is voluntary. If you do not provide sufficient information, we may not be able to prove that you have enrolled in the programme and cannot provide / coordinate services for you.

Classes of Transferees of Personal Data

Besides internal use within DH, your personal data and health information may also be accessed by, disclosed and transferred to other health care providers, including doctors and pathology laboratories, Government bureaux/departments, the Hospital Authority, and any relevant third parties for the purposes mentioned above, if required. Apart from this, the data may only be disclosed to parties where you have given consent to such disclosure or where such disclosure is allowed under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.

Access to Personal Data

You have a right of access and correction with respect to personal data as provided for in sections 18 and 22 and Principle 6 of Schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Your right of access includes the right to obtain a copy of your personal data. A fee may be imposed for complying with a data access request.

Enquiries

Enquiries concerning the personal data provided, including the making of access and corrections, should be addressed to Cervical Screening Programme, Department of Health, 18/F Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.