

WHAT CAUSES CERVICAL CANCER?



Most cervical cancers are caused by a common virus called HPV which is easily spread through intimate contact, including oral, vaginal and anal sex. Almost all people will get HPV at some point in their lives - often without knowing it. This is because most HPV infections go away naturally, and can take decades to progress to cervical cancer from long-term HPV infections.

IF I HAVE HPV, WILL I GET CERVICAL CANCER?



There are more than 100 types of HPV -some types are high risk for cervical cancer, while others are not. Usually, the body's immune system clears the virus by itself within 2 years. However, for some women the HPV does not clear from the body and over time, it can cause abnormal cell changes in the cervix that you cannot see or feel. These abnormal cells can develop into cervical cancer if they are not found and treated early enough.



GET IN TOUCH!

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Cervical cancer screening
mailed to your home

**CERVICAL CANCER
SELF-SCREENING**

Frequently Asked Questions



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

IS SELF-COLLECTION SAFE? WILL IT HURT?



HPV self-collection is very safe and it will not hurt to perform. Using the swab should feel similar to using a small tampon.

WHY CAN'T WOMEN YOUNGER THAN 30 YEARS USE CERVIXCHECK?



Women younger than 30 years old are more likely to have an HPV infection that will resolve naturally without intervention. To prevent unnecessary and over treatment, HPV testing is not recommended for women younger than 30.

DOES THE NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS A PERSON HAS INCREASE THEIR RISK OF HAVING HPV?



Having intimate sexual contact with more people may increase your risk of being exposed to more types of HPV, but even if you have had sexual contact with one or a few people, you may still be exposed to HPV.



WHAT IS HPV TESTING?

In an HPV test, a sample is collected from inside the vagina close to the cervix. It is a safe and very good way to screen for cervical cancer. If you test negative for HPV the changes that you have HPV or changes to cells on your cervix are very low. If you test positive for HPV, then additional testing can be done to determine next steps. Having a positive HPV test does not mean that you have pre-cancer or cancer. But it does mean that there is a potential risk which should be monitored.

WHAT IS HPV SELF-COLLECTION?

CervixCheck offers HPV testing, which is an extensively researched method for cervical cancer screening. Through CervixCheck, you will collect your sample yourself using a vaginal swab, a safe and easy process called “self-collection” or “self-sampling”. With this approach, you can be screened anywhere the self-collection package is sent. This offers the opportunity to have screening done in private without having to see a health care provider for a pelvic exam. This sample then undergoes HPV testing when it’s received at the lab.

