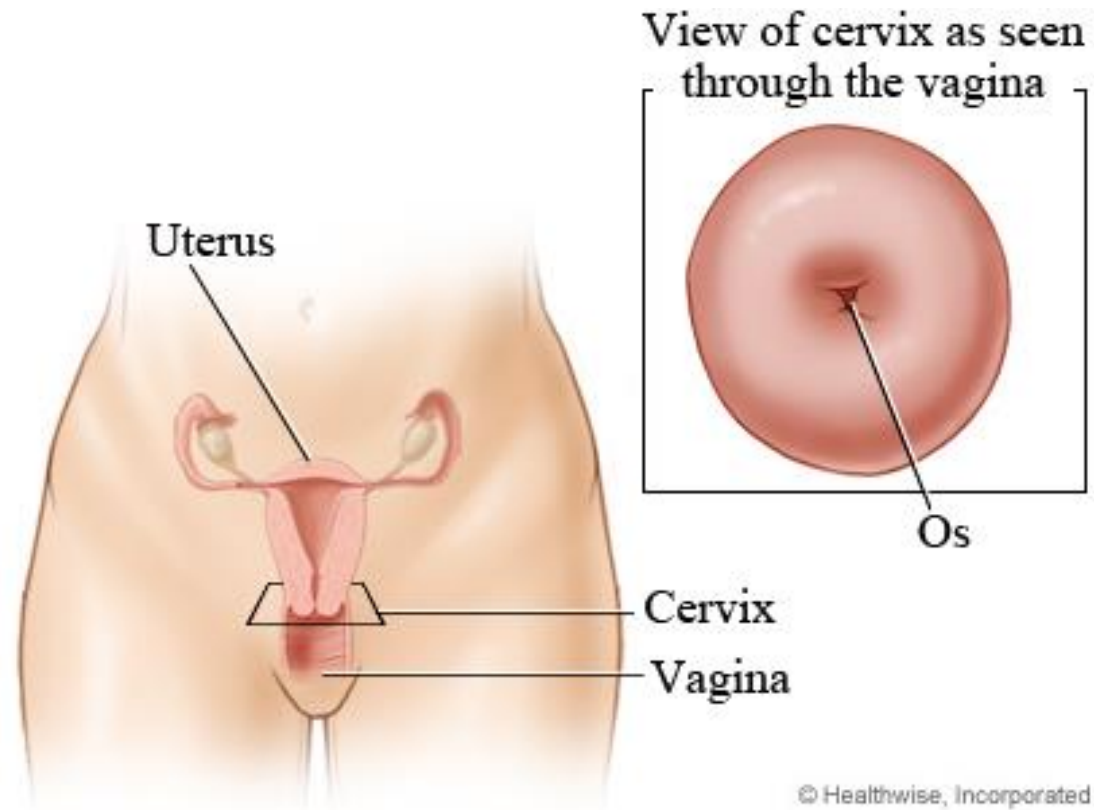




CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING: COMMUNITY EDUCATION

APRIL 2018

What is a Cervix?



What causes Cervical Cancer?

- ▶ Cancer of the cervix is caused by a virus that can be transmitted during sexual intimacy.
- ▶ There is a vaccination program available. Talk to your doctor or your doctor's secretary about this.
 - ▶ The same HPV virus in the cervix can cause head and neck cancer due to kissing and oral sex.

What is Cervical Cancer Screening

- ▶ Cervical cancer screening (Pap test) is a test that can find abnormal cells in the cervix before they become cancer. The test is free.

Why is Screening Important?

- ▶ Cervical Cancer Screening (Pap test) is a test that can find abnormal cells in the cervix before they become cancer.
- ▶ If these abnormal cells are found and treated early, cervical cancer can be stopped from developing.
- ▶ Cervical Cancer is the **2nd most common** female cancer in women less than 50 years of age.
- ▶ Screening can also identify cancer at an early stage – before it can cause symptoms. If cervical cancer is caught at its earliest stage, the chance of survival is more than 85%.

Why is Screening Important?

- ▶ Cervical cancer usually has no symptoms. Symptoms of cervical cancer **may** include:
 - * A change in your vaginal discharge.
 - * Pelvic pain, or pain during sexual intercourse.
 - * Abnormal vaginal bleeding, especially after intercourse.

If you experience any of these symptoms, see your doctor.

Who should get screened?

- ▶ Women age 25-69 should be screened every 3 years.
- ▶ Pap test can stop at age 69 if your results have always been normal. Ask your doctor if you should still be tested.
- ▶ You should still screen regularly for cervical cancer if:
 - ▶ You've been through menopause
 - ▶ You've had one or more sexual partners, or have been with the same partner for a while

How is it done?

- ▶ An instrument called a speculum is gently inserted in the vagina so the doctor/nurse can see your cervix. The doctor will then collect some cells from your cervix using a small brush.
- ▶ Cervical cancer screening is not usually painful, but can be uncomfortable.



BC Cancer Agency PAP video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlkFWb0qc4U>



Why?

- ▶ An abnormal result does not mean that you have cancer. However, it is very important to attend all follow up appointments.
- ▶ **Remember:** Detecting and treating abnormal cells can stop cancer from developing. By having this test every three years, you can reduce your risk of developing cervical cancer by up to 70%.
- ▶ Cervical Cancer Screening can save your life!

Where to get tested?

- Ask your Doctor or the Doctor's secretary about booking options.
- If you do not have a Doctor already:
 - Call the Abbotsford Division of Family Practice's Find A Doctor Abbotsford program: 604.746.3302.
 - Go to a walk-in clinic or Options for Sexual Health, and ask the secretary to see a provider for a PAP test. You can ask to see a female provider. Some clinics are listed on the BC Cancer Agency website:
www.bccancer.bc.ca/screening/cervix/clinic-locator



Questions & Answers with Providers



**Cervical Cancer Screening
Can Save **YOUR** Life**

Do you know about the importance of Cervical Cancer Screening or PAPS? 

 PAP tests can find abnormal cervical cells so that they can be treated before they turn into cancer.

 9 in 10 cases of cervical cancer can be prevented with regular PAP tests and following up on any abnormal results.

It's important to keep up with your recommended PAP exams.

Ask the doctor or the doctor's secretary about PAP test screening options.


Ages 25-69 years old?
Get tested every
3 YEARS!



Funding for this poster is provided by the Shared Care Committee, one of the Joint Collaborative Committees of Doctors of DC and the DC Government.

- For further education information, visit: www.screening4health.com