



Abnormal cervical screening results.

The facts.

Facts about abnormal screening results in the UK

1. Changes may form in the cells of the cervix (the area that connects the uterus and vagina). We sometimes call these abnormal cells.
2. Almost all cases of high grade cervical changes are caused by a common virus called the human papillomavirus (HPV)
3. Around 220,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cell changes each year.

Types of abnormal screening results

- A borderline result indicates slight abnormalities
- Low grade dyskaryosis indicates mild cell changes
- High grade dyskaryosis indicates moderate or severe cell changes
- Glandular cell changes indicates abnormal cells in the cervical canal.

Further tests

1. If you have received an abnormal result you may be invited to attend colposcopy
2. Colposcopy is simply a more detailed look at the cervix using a microscope
3. The microscope stays outside your body. All that goes inside is the speculum, the same instrument used during your cervical screening
4. You may need treatment to remove the cell changes, your clinician will advise you about this.

Treatment for abnormal cells

1. The treatment for cell changes depends on how advanced the changes are
2. Borderline and low grade changes do not usually require treatment. Depending where you live you may also have an HPV test *
3. High grade changes are usually treated with large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ), which removes the affected area with a wire loop and an electrical current
4. In some cases, a surgery called a cone biopsy may be offered as treatment.

Just diagnosed and need support

A diagnosis of cervical cell changes can be worrying. Sometimes all you want to do is talk to someone else who's been through it...

We're here to provide you with information and support:

- A website with up to date information written and reviewed by experts
- An online forum where you can share your experiences
- A dedicated helpline on 0808 802 8000
- The opportunity to send a question to one of our medical experts using our Ask The Expert service.

We also work to raise awareness of cervical cancer and support women affected by cervical cancer.

*** For more information on HPV testing please go to our website.**

This leaflet has been produced by:



The information included in this publication was correct at the time of going to press. We plan to review publications every few years however updates may happen more frequently. For updates or for the latest information, visit jostrust.org.uk.

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Helpline: 0808 802 8000