

# Wise Womens Health reverse!

## Reproductive Health

## Preventing cervical cancer

- Preventing cervical cancer
- What is the Pap test?
- What does an abnormal Pap test result mean?
- How are these abnormalities treated?
- Key messages
  - National cervical screening program
  - National Vaccination Program

## Preventing cervical cancer

Cancer of the cervix is largely preventable due to

- Pap screening
- Introduction of the HPV vaccine in 2007

In 2010, estimated there will be

- 571 new cases and
- around 229 deaths attributable to cervical cancer in Australia.  
(AIHW Cancer in Australia 2008)

Regular two-yearly Pap tests can

- reduce the incidence of cervical cancer by up to 90% in Australia
- save Australian women dying from the disease each year.  
[papscreenvictoria.org.au](http://papscreenvictoria.org.au)



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## How common is cervical cancer?

- In 2007, 208 women died from [cervical cancer](#)
- 2007- 63.1% eligible Vic. women 20 - 69 had Pap test
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander five times more likely to die from cervical cancer
- 85% of women who die have not had Pap tests every 2 years
- The biggest risk factor for cervical cancer is:
  - not having a Pap test every 2 years and
  - not being vaccinated if aged between 12-26

[www.papscreenvictoria.org.au](http://www.papscreenvictoria.org.au)



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## Early detection

- Up to 90% of cervical cancers are preventable if you Pap test every two years.
- Pap tests pick up early warning signs that can be treated.
- On average cervical cancer takes at least a decade to develop.
- Almost 9 in 10 Victorian women who develop **cervical cancer** either never had a **Pap test** or did not have them regularly in the 10 years prior to diagnosis.

[www.papscreenvictoria.org.au](http://www.papscreenvictoria.org.au)



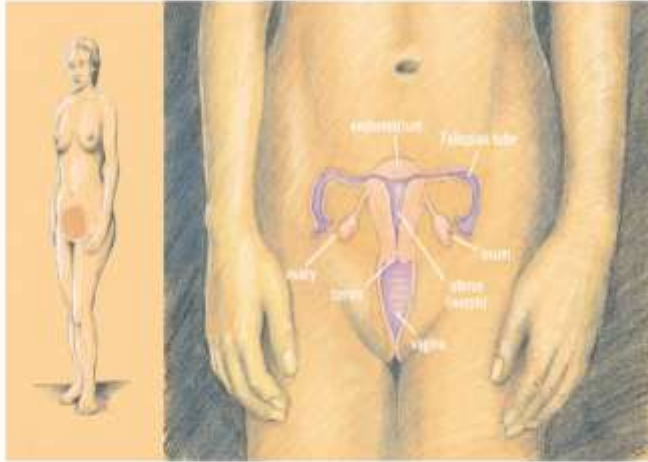
## What does the Pap test involve?

- A Pap test involves taking cells from the cervix
- It only takes a couple of minutes
- A doctor or nurse Pap test provider can perform a Pap test



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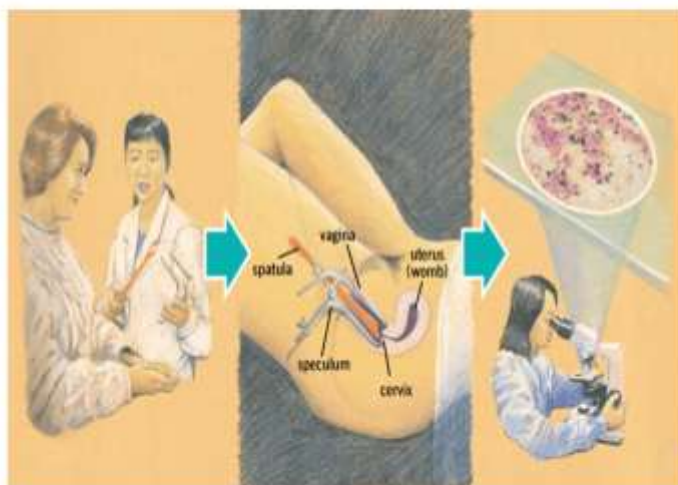
# Female reproductive system



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# The Pap test









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## Who should have a Pap test?

Every woman aged 18 - 70 years who has ever had sex.

This includes women who:

- Are lesbians
- Have disabilities
- Are widowed or divorced
- Have not had sex for years
- Have only had one sexual partner
- Women who have had a hysterectomy should consult their doctor
- If you have a cervix, you need to have a Pap test



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## What does a Pap test screen for?

- The Pap test screens for cervical cell abnormalities which, if left untreated, may lead to cervical cancer
- It does not test for other types of cancer in the reproductive system or for sexually transmitted diseases
- Results take 2-3 weeks



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# Human Papilloma Virus

(HPV; wart virus)

- HPV is very common
- Affects 80% of women at some time
- Spread through genital skin contact
- Causes 7 out of 10 cases of cervical cancer
- HPV can appear as warts (but does not always cause warts)
- HPV places women at an increased risk
- HPV infection usually clears naturally in 1 - 2 years
- National HPV Vaccination Program -*Gardasil*<sup>®</sup>
  - April 2007, Australian Government will provide vaccine free to women/ girls between 12 -26



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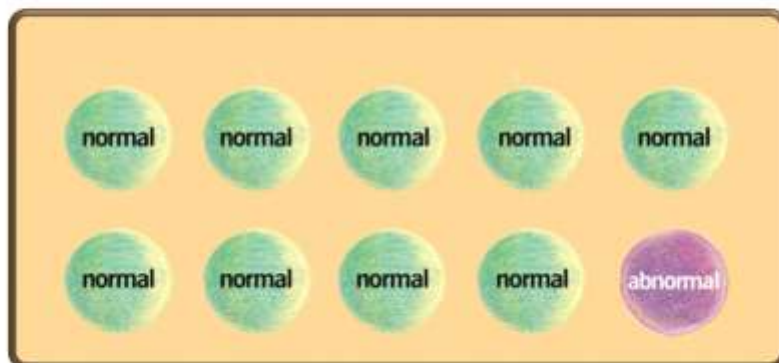
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## How accurate is the Pap test?

- The Pap test is 90% accurate
- Most cervical cancers take 10 years to develop
- Most abnormal Pap test results are *not* due to cervical cancer
- Most abnormalities indicate common infections or conditions
- These often clear up naturally or can be easily treated

## Most Pap test results are normal





## Preventing Cervical Cancer

- Most cervical cancer is preventable
- Have a Pap test every 2 years
- Be vaccinated with *Gardasil*<sup>®</sup> and also have Pap tests
- Make an appointment today!
- For further information:
  - Talk to doctor or Pap test provider





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## Contacts

- NSW
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  - E: [www.csp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.csp.nsw.gov.au)
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- QLD
  - T: 13 15 56
  - E: [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au)
- WA
  - T: 13 15 56
  - E: [www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/cervical\\_cancer](http://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/cervical_cancer)



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