

Where Is The PAP Smear Test Available?

The test is available in:

¥ Government Health Centres.

¥ Family Planning Clinics.

¥ Private Hospitals/Clinics.

Who Should Have This Test?

Women between 20-65 years of age, are sexually active or have been sexually active before, should have this test.

How Often Should This Test Be Done?

The test should be done once in three years.

When Is The Best Time To Have This Test?

It is best done at the middle of the menstrual cycle or 10 days after onset of menstruation.

**Remember!
Regular PAP
Smear Test
Helps Detect
Cancer Of The
Cervix Early
And
Increases The Chance
Of A Cure.**



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Cancer of The Cervix



CANCER OF THE CERVIX

Cancer of Cervix is the second most common cancer amongst women in Malaysia.

The incidence has been increasing over the years. If not detected and treated early it can result in death.

What Is Cancer Of The Cervix?

The cervix is the neck of the womb (uterus). The womb is the part of the body where the foetus develops. The cervix leads to a passage called the vagina which leads to the exterior. In cancer of the cervix, the cells in the cervix behave abnormally. They keep on growing and build up into a lump or tumour. If they are not treated they can spread to other parts of the body through your blood or lymph system. Cancer of the cervix can take many years to develop. Before it develops, early changes take place in cells on the surface of the cervix. This is called the pre-cancerous stage.

What Are The Signs And Symptoms Of Cancer Of The Cervix?

- ¥ Watery, foul smelling vaginal discharge.
- ¥ Painful intercourse.
- ¥ Vaginal bleeding between periods or after sex.
- ¥ Any vaginal bleeding after menopause.

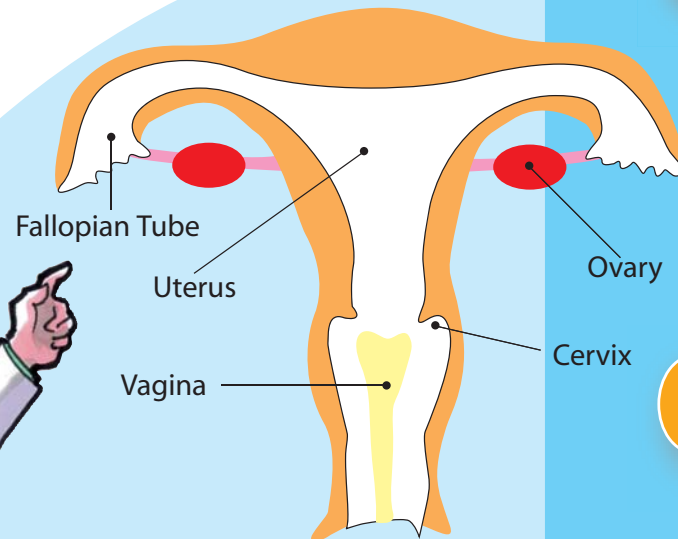


What Are The Risk Factors For Cancer Of The Cervix?

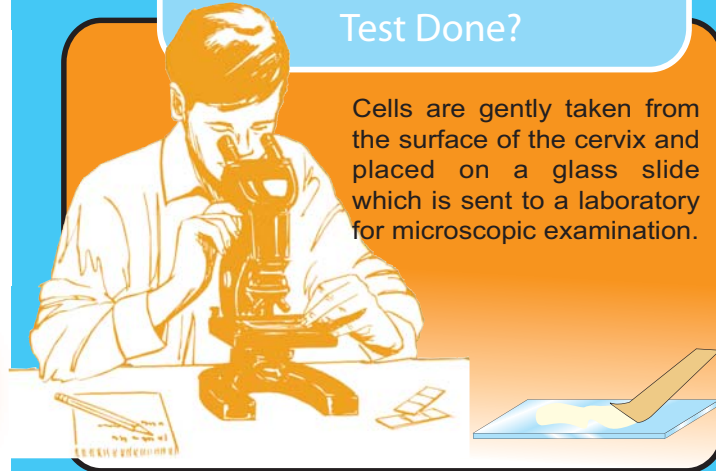
- ¥ Sexual habits - begin sexual intercourse at an early age or have multiple partners.
- ¥ Infectious agent - there is evidence linking cancer of the cervix with Human Papilloma virus infection.

What Can You Do To Protect Yourself Against Cancer Of The Cervix?

Since any sexually active woman may get cancer of the cervix, it is very important to detect it early. This can be done through a PAP Smear Test. This is a simple and painless test to detect cancer of the cervix at a very early stage, when simple treatment can result in a total cure.



How Is a PAP Smear Test Done?



Cells are gently taken from the surface of the cervix and placed on a glass slide which is sent to a laboratory for microscopic examination.

What Will The Result Show?

In most women, these cells are absolutely normal. In some, the cells may not look normal and may indicate early stages of cancer. When this occurs the test is repeated and, if necessary, further examinations made.

What Will The Follow-Up Action Be?

If any abnormalities are found, you will be treated or referred for further investigation and treatment.