



Pap Smear Explanation

It is recommended that you have a pap smear yearly. An HPV test is frequently ordered with the pap smear. HPV is a virus that if present, can lead to cervical cancer. If your pap smear is abnormal or if you test positive for HPV, you may be asked to have a follow-up pap smear or colposcopy. Colposcopy is performed by your physician and involves a microscopic examination of your cervix to further diagnose the presence or absence of dysplasia of the cervix. At the time of colposcopy, you may have small biopsies taken to confirm the presence of abnormal cells on your cervix. If you have moderate or severe dysplasia, you may need further treatment. Treatment may include cryotherapy (freezing the cervix) or a LEEP procedure. The LEEP is a minor surgical procedure, which can be performed in the office using a local anesthetic or in the operating room if you require more sedation. The LEEP both diagnoses and treats higher grade cervical dysplasias. If you have a positive HPV of the high-risk type, you have an increased risk of developing cervical cancer within your lifetime