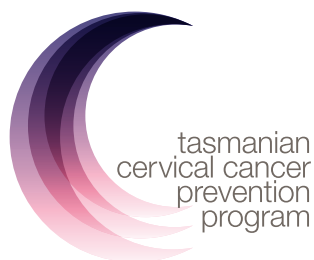


Further information

Speak to your doctor or specialist to find out if you should have regular Pap smears after your hysterectomy.



Phone **13 15 56**

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/cancerscreening

National Cervical Screening Program

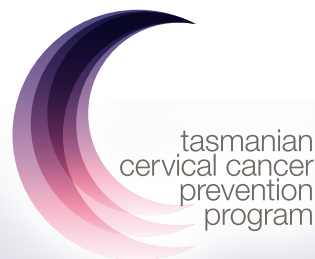
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Should I have a Pap smear after a hysterectomy?



Information for women who have had a hysterectomy.



August 2014

Department of Health
and Human Services



Should I have a Pap smear after a hysterectomy?

What is a Pap smear?

Pap smears are the best way to test for changes to the cervix. During a Pap smear some cells are taken from a woman's cervix to see if any are abnormal. Abnormal cells are often caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which can cause changes that can lead to cervical cancer.

What is a hysterectomy?

A hysterectomy is an operation to remove the uterus (womb) and sometimes the ovaries or fallopian tubes. It is typically performed to treat:

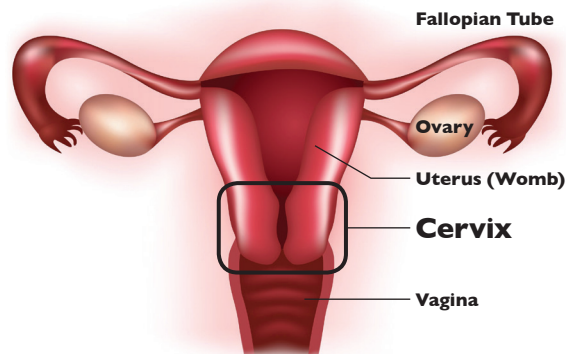
- Uterine fibroids, or endometriosis
- Persistent or abnormal pelvic pain or vaginal bleeding.

The cervix is often removed during a hysterectomy, but not always.

Pap smears after a hysterectomy:

- Talk to your doctor in the first instance.
- Pap smears are recommended after a hysterectomy if any portion of your cervix is intact.

It is important to consult your doctor or your specialist to determine appropriate follow-up tests after a hysterectomy.



It is important to talk to your doctor if:

- You had an operation because of a gynaecological cancer (eg. the cervix, uterus, vagina etc.)
- Unexpected abnormal cells were found during the operation
- You don't know why you had the operation
- You have had (or are unsure whether you could have had) abnormal Pap smears in the past
- You take medicine for asthma or arthritis
- Your mother took medication during her pregnancy to prevent miscarriage.

You should have regular Pap smears after a hysterectomy unless advised by your doctor or specialist.