



The cervical smear that needs to be repeated
Prawf taeniad gwddf y groth y mae'n rhaid ei wneud eto

Why do I need another smear test?

Your cervical smear test has shown some minor abnormalities. Slight abnormalities like these are seen in about 1 smear in every 20, and do not mean that you have cancer.

Often, these minor abnormalities will return to normal on their own, and it is quite safe to wait and do another smear test in six months' time. These abnormalities do not cause any symptoms, so if you notice any unusual bleeding or discharge, you should make an appointment to discuss this with your GP.

What has caused the abnormalities?

There are several possible causes. There may be some inflammation of the cervix (neck of the womb). Sometimes, hormonal changes can give the appearance of a mild abnormality.

Sometimes, cell changes known as dyskaryosis (which just means that the appearance of the cell nucleus is abnormal) may be present at a very early stage. It is still not entirely clear what causes dyskaryosis to develop. Often, it is because a virus has infected the cervix. This virus is called the human papilloma virus or HPV, and is passed on during sexual intercourse.

Some women worry that having sex will make the problem worse or that it could be passed on to their partners. Intercourse does not make it worse, and you cannot pass on the dyskaryotic cells.

What happens if my smear returns to normal?

If, as often happens, your smear test returns to normal on its own, you should have two more smear tests over the following 18 months. You will be reminded when these smear tests are due in the usual way. After this, you will return to having routine smears every three years.

What if my smear does not return to normal on its own?

If your smear does not return to normal on its own, you will need another investigation to see if you need treatment. This may be after two or three abnormal smears, depending on the abnormalities seen. Treatment is usually 100% successful.

What would another investigation involve?

The investigation is called a colposcopy. Colposcopy allows the cervix to be examined more closely to see if there are any areas that may need treatment.

If you need to have a colposcopy, you will receive a leaflet explaining what will happen. Not everyone who has a colposcopy needs treatment.

What should I do if I notice symptoms?

If you ever have irregular or unusual bleeding, or unusual vaginal discharge, please make an appointment to discuss this with your GP even if you have had a recent smear test.

Any Other Questions?

If you have any more questions about screening, please contact your GP, practice nurse or community clinic staff or write to:

The Director
Cervical Screening Wales
18 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LH

We produce the following leaflets on all aspects of cervical screening.

Cervical screening - the facts

The smear that needs to be repeated

Investigating an abnormal smear

Investigating an inadequate smear

Your colposcopy appointment

Treatment following an abnormal smear

Should women who are virgins have cervical smears?

After your hysterectomy

Do you have a complaint about Cervical Screening Wales?

How we use information about you

Our pledges to you.

You can get our leaflets from

- your local Cervical Screening Administration Department;
- from your own doctor, or
- from our website at www.velindre-tr.wales.nhs.uk/csw.

You can also get all our leaflets in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.