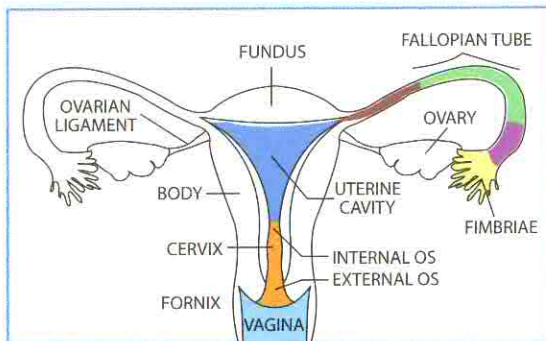


Your Diagnosis

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Your recent pelvic examination has revealed that you tested positive for Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV, a virus that causes



most cellular changes on the cervix, is divided into two groups, high- and low-risk. High-risk HPV is found in more than 95% of both cervical precancerous conditions and actual cervical cancer. Although high-risk HPV indicates that you may be at an increased risk

for developing cervical cancer, it is important to understand that a diagnosis of high-risk HPV does not necessarily mean that you have cervical cancer. Low-risk HPV is rarely found in cervical cancer and is more likely to be linked to genital warts or other noncancerous-related infections. Your HPV test results must be reviewed in conjunction with your Pap test results to determine the most appropriate follow-up plan.

HPV Background Information

All women 18 and over (and younger women who are sexually active) should have a pelvic examination at least once a year. In addition to the Pap test, an important part of the pelvic examination is the HPV test. HPV is one of the more common sexually transmitted infections and is the leading cause of both cervical precancerous conditions and actual cervical cancer. The HPV test is conducted to enable a medical laboratory to determine if you are at high- or low- risk for developing cervical cancer.

Facts about HPV

- HPV is very common, but most people don't know they have it. It is passed from one person to another during sex.
- There are over 100 different types of HPV. Most types, however, don't cause any problems. Some types can cause genital warts that you can see or feel.
- A few types of HPV can slowly lead to cervical cancer if they are not treated. These types do not cause warts or bumps.

Facts about Cervical Cancer

- The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed this year.
- The five-year survival rate for cervical cancer is greater than 90%.
- Risk factors for cervical cancer include, but are not limited to: HPV infection, sexual activity at a young age, a history of multiple sexual partners, smoking and conditions that compromise the immune system, such as HIV infection.

Follow-up Options for HPV

Follow-up will be determined after your clinician reviews your HPV test results in conjunction with your Pap test results.

If you are HPV positive (either high- or low-risk group) and your Pap test result is within normal limits, your clinician may choose to monitor you with more frequent follow-up Pap tests.

If you are HPV negative, and your Pap test result is within normal limits, this indicates that you are currently at low-risk for cervical cancer or precancerous disease. Your clinician will discuss your schedule for routine follow-up depending on your clinical history.

If your Pap test result is abnormal, regardless of your HPV result, please refer to the Patient Education Report that corresponds with your Pap test result.

Important Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- For my condition, what follow-up options do I have?
- What do you suggest and why?
- What are the potential risks or side effects to this option?
- When do you recommend a repeat HPV test?

Sources for Additional Information

- AmeriPath: www.ameripath.com or 800-330-6565
- American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org or 800-227-2345
- National Cancer Institute: www.nci.nih.gov or 800-4-CANCER
- WebMD: www.webmd.com



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