

Q: Is the Pap test accurate?

A: The Pap test is the most effective cancer-screening test in medical history.



Q: How or when will I know my test results?

A: The results of your Pap test will be reported to your physician within a few weeks, at most. Then your physician may notify you by mail or telephone, or ask you to call the office. If you don't hear from your physician, you should call for your results.

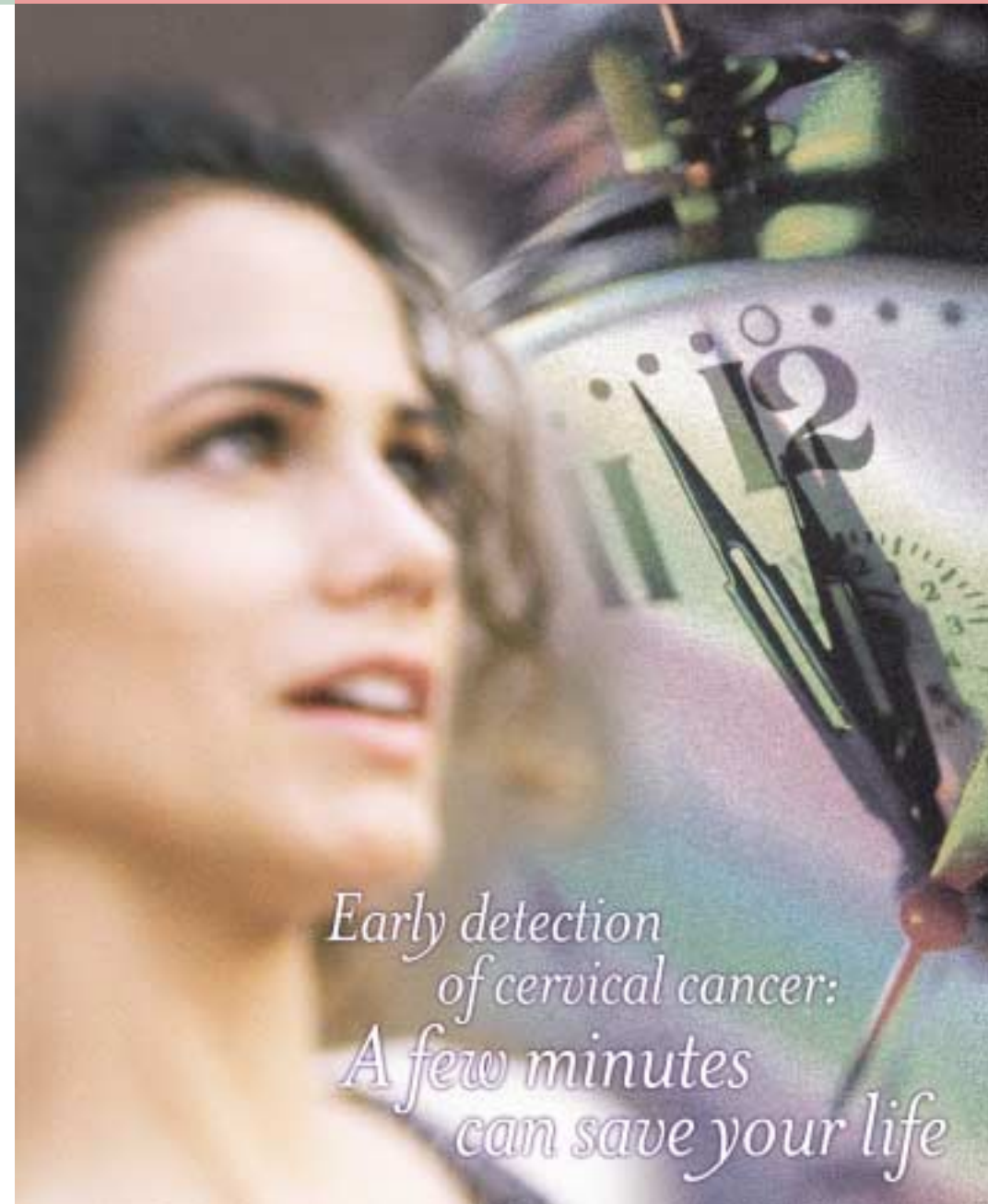


Q: What if my Pap test comes back abnormal? Does that mean I have cervical cancer?

A: No. Often abnormal results of a Pap test can indicate precancerous changes. If left untreated, these changes could lead to cervical cancer.

Q: In the event of an abnormal Pap test, what happens next?

A: If your Pap test is reported as abnormal, your physician will recommend what to do. The point is: your greatest health safeguard against cervical cancer is dialing the phone and making that yearly appointment for a Pap test.



*Early detection
of cervical cancer:
A few minutes
can save your life*



If you're a woman 18 years of age or older, make a yearly Pap test a part of your health care routine.



We recommend yearly visits to your physician as an important part of your regular wellness program. We urge all women 18 years of age or older, or any woman who has ever had sexual intercourse, to make a yearly appointment for a Pap test. As the most effective screening method for early detection of cervical cancer or precancerous changes of the cervix, a yearly Pap test (or Pap smear) may help save your life.



Q: What is cervical cancer?

A: Cervical cancer is a cancer of the cervix, which is the opening of the uterus or womb.



Q: What can I do to prevent it?

A: Take an active role in your own health. Go to your physician for a yearly Pap test.



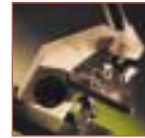
Q: What is a Pap test?

A: A Pap test examines cells from the surface of your cervix. This test can detect early changes in your cervix that could lead to cancer. Since the introduction of the Pap test, death rates from cervical cancer have decreased by more than 70% in the United States. This is good news for women of all ages.



Q: How is a Pap test performed? Does it hurt?

A: While you lie on an examination table, your physician will spread apart the walls of your vagina with an instrument called a "speculum." The physician will then rub a swab against your cervix to scrape off some cervical cells. This procedure is simple, quick, and painless.

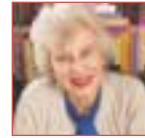


Q: It's that easy?

A: Yes. At this point, the physician will place the cells taken from your cervix on a glass slide, which is then sent to a laboratory and examined under a microscope by a trained technologist.

Q: How often should I get a Pap test?

A: The College of American Pathologists recommends that every woman over 18 years of age or any woman who's ever had sexual intercourse have a Pap test every year.



Q: What about women over 50?

A: There is no age limit for Pap tests. Women over 50 and women who are past menopause should continue to have regular Pap tests. Women who have had a hysterectomy should consult their doctor.



Q: Could I be at risk for cervical cancer?

A: According to the National Cancer Institute, incidence of and death rates from cervical cancer begin to rise in the late teens. However, 25% of the total invasive cancers of the cervix are in women over 65; this age group accounts for 40% to 50% of all cervical cancer deaths. That's why, for a woman of any age, it's so important to keep your regular yearly appointment for your Pap test. There is, however, a greater risk for cervical cancer if you:

- Have had multiple sexual partners or have a partner who has had multiple partners
- Had sexual intercourse before the age of 18
- Have genital warts from the human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Had a previous abnormal Pap test, or
- Smoke cigarettes.