**Caythorpe and Ancaster Medical Practice**

**Results of cervical screening**

**The results of your screening test will be sent to you in the post , with a copy sent to your GP.**

The Cervical Screening Programme aims to notify people of their results within 14 days.

**Test results for abnormal cells**

The first test carried out on your sample is to look for abnormal cells (cytology), and the results you may get are as follows.

**Normal**

A normal test result means that no abnormal cell changes have been found. No action is needed and you do not need another cervical screening test until it is routinely due.

**Inadequate**

You may be told that you need to have a repeat test because the first one could not be read properly. This may be because not enough cells were collected, they could not be seen clearly enough or an infection was present.

If this the case, you will be asked to go back so that another sample of cells can be taken, usually after about three months.

**Abnormal**

If you have abnormal results, you may be told that you have:

* borderline or low-grade changes (called dyskaryosis)
* moderate or severe (high-grade) dyskaryosis

If your result is low-grade, it means that although there are some abnormal cell changes, they are very close to being normal and may disappear without treatment.

In this case, your sample will be tested for HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). HPV is the name given to a group of viruses that affect your skin and moist membranes such as the cervix. It can in some cases cause cancer of the cervix. If HPV isn’t found, you are at very low risk of developing cervical cancer before your next screening test. You will be invited back for routine screening in three to five years’ time (depending on your age). If HPV is found, you will be offered an examination called colposcopy, which looks at the cervix more closely.

If your result is high-grade dyskaryosis, your sample will not be tested for HPV, but you will be offered colposcopy (an examination of the cervix) in order to check the changes in your cervical cells.

All these results show that you have abnormal cell changes. This does not mean that you have cancer or will get cancer. It just means that some of your cells are abnormal and if they are not treated they may develop into cervical cancer.

**Colposcopy**

A colposcopy is a simple examination that uses a special microscope called a colposcope to examine your cervix. Having colposcopy is very much like having cervical screening. The colposcope doesn’t go inside you. It can identify the extent of abnormal cells and helps determine whether you need treatment.

A small sample of tissue ([biopsy](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Biopsy/Pages/Introduction.aspx)) may also be taken from your cervix during colposcopy.

Sometimes you'll be offered treatment to remove abnormal cells at the same time as your colposcopy examination. More extensive types of treatment may require a separate appointment.

Information taken from [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) Aug 2015