

Ladies, have you had your smear test?

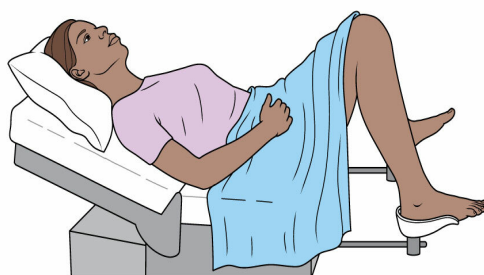


What is a Cervical Smear test?

A cervical smear test is when a trained nurse or doctor takes a sample of cells from your cervix. This is done using a small soft brush. You will get a letter that it is time for your smear test, please book in with us when you get this letter. We have a qualified nurse here at Brunswick Medical Centre who can do your smear test for you. The test will be done in the treatment room. You will be asked to undress from the waist down, if you have a dress or skirt on you can leave this and only take off your underwear. You will be given privacy to do this. The nurse will give you a tissue to cover yourself and will talk to you as she performs the test. A clean speculum with jelly on the tip will be inserted into your vagina. A speculum is a plastic tube which is round at the end and can be opened once it is in the vagina, this may be uncomfortable, but it won't be painful. When the nurse can see your cervix, she will take a sample using a soft brush. The sample of cells will then be put into a container which has special fluid in it, and this will be sent to the laboratory for further analysis. You will then be given privacy to dress. You may experience some light bleeding after the procedure, and may want to wear a panty liner. You will receive a copy of the results in the post

Why is a Cervical Smear test done and what is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is a viral infection of the human reproductive tract. Most sexually active women and men will be infected at some point in their lives, and they may get the virus more than once. However, in some cases there is a risk that the lady can develop cervical cancer. The idea of the cervical smear test is to detect changes caused by HPV to the cervix early. Sometimes these changes may not be detected, as the virus can lie dormant. Therefore, we need to do regular smear tests for ladies after the age of 25.



What is Cervical Cancer?

Cervical Cancer is the 4th most cancer in the world and if you think anything is wrong, 'down there,' please book an appointment with us. Cervical cancer starts in the cells in the cervix it can develop on the outer surface of the cervix and inside the cervical canal. It is caused mainly by HPV. Symptoms include vaginal bleeding that is unusual, changes to vaginal discharge, discomfort during sex and pain in the lower back or pelvis.

Early screening of cervical cancer using the cervical smear test can save lives, so if you are due a cervical smear test or think you need one done, please book your appointment with us today. 😊