

Cervical Biopsy and Endocervical Curettage

Introducing a NEW Approach

Following an abnormal pap smear or abnormal cervical screening, it is common practice for a practitioner to recommend a colposcopy exam so they can view the cervix under magnification. Doctors often take biopsies of any area that looks suspicious to rule out pre-cancer or cancer.

We are now offering a safe and effective alternative using new tissue biopsy technology: fabric or bristle brush biopsy devices that offer a gentle approach for our patients. These new devices provide abundant diagnostic tissue samples.

What can I do to reduce my risk of Cervical Cancer?

- Get recommended cancer screening
- Don't Smoke
- Use condoms during sexual intercourse
- Limit your number of sexual partners

*The most important thing
you can do to prevent cervical cancer
is to have regular screening
and timely follow-up care.*

Talk to your doctor regarding the recommended frequency of testing which is based on your individual health history and age. Also ask your doctor about vaccines which are now available for certain age groups.

Our Practice Offers: Compassionate Colposcopy®

A Gentle Approach to Diagnosis

We are dedicated to providing a compassionate approach to colposcopy.

We have adopted new minimally invasive biopsy tools. Our priority is to offer a patient-friendly alternative to the sharp punch-biopsy or scraping curettes.

The new disposable biopsy devices are fabric-based and bristle brush tools that provide high quality tissue samples for the pathologist to evaluate.

We are committed to your care, your comfort during examination, and your overall health and well-being.



HISTOLOGICS

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What is Colposcopy?

Colposcopy is a procedure done by a specialist trained to use a binocular magnifying device called a colposcope to examine your vulva, vagina, and cervix. If a problem is seen during colposcopy, a small sample of tissue called a biopsy may be taken from the cervix and/or from inside the opening of the cervix leading to the uterus (endocervical canal). These samples are then sent to the laboratory where a pathologist examines the tissue with a microscope and makes a diagnosis.

The majority of abnormal Pap tests are caused by viral infections, most commonly the human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Natural cervical cell changes (atrophic vaginitis) related to menopause can also cause an abnormal Pap test. In some cases, untreated cervical cell changes that cause abnormal Pap tests may indicate that precancerous or cancerous changes are present.

More about HPV and Cervical Cancer

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV, a common virus that can be passed from one person to another during sex. There are many different types of HPV. Some HPV types can cause changes on a woman's cervix, which can lead to cervical cancer over time. Other HPV types can cause genital or skin warts.

HPV is so common that most people, both men and women get it at some time in their lives. HPV usually causes no symptoms. For most women, HPV will go away on its own without treatment. However, if it does not, there is a chance that over time it has the potential to cause cervical cancer.

This information is provided to you by your healthcare provider and Histologics, LLC innovators of:

SoftBiopsy® • Spirabrush CX® • Soft-ECC®

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Factors that can increase your risk of Cervical Cancer

- **Smoking**
- **Having HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)** or another condition that makes it harder for your body's immune system to fight off health problems
- **Using birth control pills for a long time** (five or more years)
- **Having three or more full-term pregnancies**
- **Having multiple sexual partners**

Additional risk factors and information can be found on these websites:

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
American Cancer Society*

Two Tests that can help prevent Cervical Cancer

The Pap Test

A cervical cancer screening test

This test looks for abnormal cells which could be pre-cancerous and lead to cancer if they are not treated in a timely manner and treated appropriately.

The HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) Screening Test

This test looks for the virus that can cause abnormal cellular changes which can lead to cancer if the virus is persistent.