

Patient information

Smear tests after hysterectomy – advice for patients and GPs

In most women having a hysterectomy, the cervix (neck of the womb) is removed as part of the operation. This is examined by the pathologist.

If the cervix is normal, and if the patients have had regular cervical screening before their operation, then no further smears are required.

This information is passed to your GP who should ensure you are withdrawn from the recall system for smears.

There are a few circumstances in which smears will still be required. You will be advised about this by your gynaecologist.

- **Sub-total hysterectomy:** This is an operation where the body of the uterus is removed but the cervix is left. These patients need to continue to have regular smears in the usual way until the age of 64.
- Women who, for whatever reason, have not had an up-to-date smear before their hysterectomy. Ideally this should not happen but, if it does, one vault smear (taken from the top the vagina) is recommended six months post operatively.
- Where a hysterectomy is carried out for pre-malignant disease of the cervix (CIN) or CIN is found, a vault smear (from the top of the vagina) is taken at six months and 18 months after the operation.

Vault smears will not be prompted by a letter from the cytology recall service in the usual way. It is the responsibility of the gynaecologist to arrange the vault smear.

- Patients where CIN has been found on the cervix extending to the resection margin of the hysterectomy will be referred to the colposcopy clinic for further management. Follow up is likely involve smears as if the cervix was still present until aged 64 or 10 years after surgery.

Reference:

Guidelines for the NHS cervical screening programme
NHS publication February 2020 – follow-up after hysterectomy

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is actively involved in clinical research. Your doctor, clinical team or the research and development department may contact you regarding specific clinical research studies that you might be interested in participating in. If you do not wish to be contacted for these purposes, please email info.gov@wsh.nhs.uk. This will in no way affect the care or treatment you receive.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)
<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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