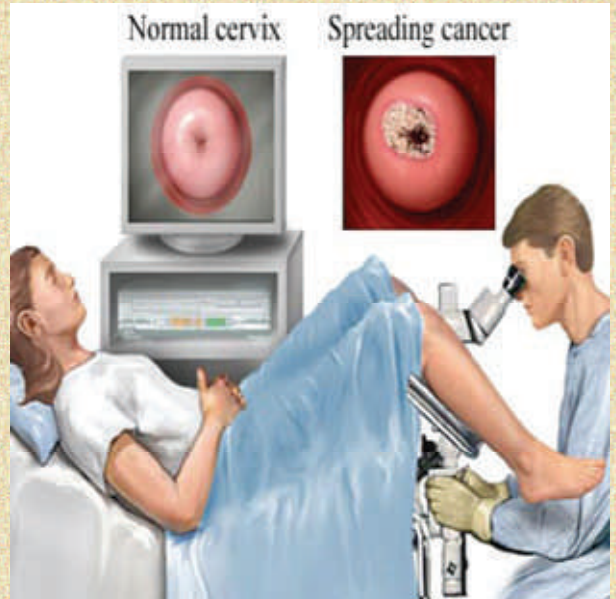


Evaluation & Treatment of Abnormal Pap Smears

If your pap smear was not normal further evaluation to determine if there are precancerous cells present may be required. While paps are relatively easy to perform, their accuracy is limited, and an abnormal pap simply suggest that further evaluation is necessary.

Further evaluation is usually performed by colposcopic evaluation of the cervix.

A colposcope is a set of binoculars which is mounted on a stand and can be used to look at the cervix with magnification to determine if indeed precancerous cells are present. This is done in the gynecologist's office, & if necessary biopsies of the cervix can be taken in the office with minimal discomfort. Biopsy results usually take about 1 week to return and the plan for treatment will be based on the biopsy results(biopsies are much more accurate than pap smears).



Mild or low grade precancerous cells are usually observed closely with frequent pap smears as the risk of these progressing to cancer is very small. Moderate or severe precancerous cells are usually treated with an office procedure to destroy the abnormal cells as the risk for these progressing to cancer is quite high.

Since most precancerous cells of the cervix are believed to be due to the HPV virus(Human Papilloma Virus), your pap smear may be tested for the presence of HPV.

If moderate to severe precancerous cells are seen on biopsy it may be recommended that you have some type of procedure to destroy the abnormal cells on your cervix. This could be by freezing the cells, removing them with electrocautery(LEEP-Loop Electrode Excision Procedure), or removing a portion of the cervix in the operating room by a procedure called a cone biopsy.

If treatment of the cervix is required for precancerous cells, it will NOT interfere with your ability to have children or interfere with your sex life. More information will be available from your gynecologist.

The Doctor may give you additional information regarding these issues when you come to the office for a colposcopy.