

Pap Testing Recommendations

Source	Initiation of screening	Continued screening	Ending screening
American Cancer Society ⁱ (http://www.cancer.org)	Begin about 3 years after start having vaginal intercourse or no later than age 21. A regular Pap test should be done every year. If a liquid-based Pap test is used instead, women should be tested every 2 years.	Beginning at age 30, many women who have had 3 normal Pap test results in a row may be tested less often - every 2 to 3 years. Either the conventional (regular) Pap test or the liquid-based Pap test can be used.	Women 70 years of age or older who have had 3 or more normal Pap test results in a row and no abnormal Pap test results in the last 10 years may choose to stop having cervical cancer testing. Women with a history of cervical cancer, DES exposure before birth, HIV infection, or a weakened immune system should continue to have testing as long as they are in good health.
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force ⁱⁱ (http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm)	Indirect evidence suggests most of the benefit can be obtained by beginning screening within 3 years of onset of sexual activity or age 21 (whichever comes first) and screening at least every 3 years	Screening at least every 3 years	Recommends against routinely screening women older than age 65 for cervical cancer if they have had adequate recent screening with normal Pap smears and are not otherwise at high risk for cervical cancer
National Cancer Institute ⁱⁱⁱ (http://www.cancer.gov/)	Have a Pap test at least once every 3 years, beginning about 3 years after sexual intercourse debut, but no later than age 21.	Have a Pap test at least once every 3 years	Women ages 65 to 70 who have had at least three normal Pap tests and no abnormal Pap tests in the last 10 years may decide, after talking with their clinician, to stop having Pap tests.
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ^{iv} (http://www.acog.org)	You should start having Pap tests at age 21 years. Women 21-29 years should have a Pap test every 2 years.	Women aged 30 years and older should have a Pap test every 2 years. After three normal Pap test results in a row, a woman in this age group may have Pap tests every 3 years if she does not have a history of dysplasia, a compromised immune system, or exposure to DES prior to birth.	A woman who is aged 65 to 70 years can stop having Pap tests after three normal results in a row within the past 10 years. However, certain risk factors constitute continued routine screening. These risk factors include being sexually active and having had multiple partners or a previous history of abnormal Pap test results.

ⁱ American Cancer Society. Cervical cancer prevention and early detection. (Accessed March 16, 2010 at http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_6X_Cervical_Cancer_Prevention_and_Early_Detection_8.asp?sitearea=&level=.)

ⁱⁱ US Department of Health and Human Services. Screening for cervical cancer: recommendations and rationale. (Accessed March 17, 2010 at <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/cervcan/cervcanrr.htm>.)

ⁱⁱⁱ National Cancer Institute. Pap test. (Accessed March 16, 2010 at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Detection/Pap-test>.)

^{iv} The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The pap test. (Accessed March 16, 2010 at http://www.acog.org/publications/patient_education/bp085.cfm.)