

Refugee Women's Health Clinic (602-344-1445)
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Cervical Cancer Screening

1. What is a Pap test?

Answer: This test is used to detect cell changes in the cervix.

2. How is a Pap test done?

Answer: A Pap test is done during a pelvic exam, where the doctor will use a soft brush to obtain cells from the cervix, which will then be examined by a lab for cancer or other problems.

3. What causes cervical cancer?

Answer: Almost all cervical cancers are caused by certain strains of HPV, or Human Papillomavirus. These strains of HPV are sexually transmitted.

4. What else happens during a pelvic exam?

Answer: The nurse or doctor will check for any other problems or infections in the vaginal area. The exam typically takes only a few minutes.

5. Can I have cervical cancer and not know it?

Answer: Yes! There are often no symptoms or pain.

6. Where do I get a Pap test?

Answer: Doctor's offices and clinics such as the Refugee Women's Health Clinic.

7. If I've gone through menopause, do I still need a Pap test?

Answer: Most women still need to get Pap tests. Talk with your doctor to find out what is best for you.

8. If I've had a hysterectomy, do I still need a Pap test?

Answer: Depending on what type of hysterectomy you received, it may still be best to get Pap tests. Talk with your doctor to find out what is best for you.

9. When can I stop getting Pap tests?

Answer: If you are age 65 or older, talk with your doctor about whether you still need to get Pap tests.

*Information obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (with NCI and NIH) pamphlet: "Pap tests: A Healthy Habit for You"