



# Cervical screening during pregnancy

Cervical screening is safe at any time during pregnancy, provided that the correct sampling equipment is used.

## Cervical screening is recommended:

every 5 years

for asymptomatic women and people with a cervix

aged 25 to 74

who have ever had any sexual contact

## Contact the National Cancer Screening Register to:

- Access patient cervical screening information
- Manage your patients' participation

Phone  
1800 627 701




NATIONAL  
CERVICAL SCREENING  
PROGRAM




A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

## Pregnant women should be offered a choice of screening options:

### Self-collected vaginal sample

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) self-collection is as sensitive for the detection of HPV and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2 or higher (CIN2+)/adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS) as a clinician-collected test. 
- HPV self-collection is suitable for use at all stages of pregnancy and may be a more acceptable option for some women.
- Clinicians may assist their patients to collect a vaginal sample if required. The sample should be recorded as 'self-collected' on the pathology request form, even if assistance is provided.
- **If HPV is detected:** Patients will need to return for a clinician-collected cervical sample or be referred to a specialist for further investigation.

### Clinician-collected cervical sample

- A cervical sampler broom is **recommended** for use during pregnancy 
- The endocervical brush and Cervex-Brush® Combi are **not recommended** for use during pregnancy, due to the risk of associated bleeding which may cause unnecessary distress for the patient 
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## Practice points

### Screening history

Routine antenatal and postpartum care should include a review of the patient's cervical screening history. For some patients, **pregnancy may be one of the few points of contact** with the health system.

### Pregnancy safety

Cervical screening during pregnancy is safe at any time and should not be delayed. Patients who are due or overdue for screening should be offered a Cervical Screening Test (CST).

### Symptoms

Patients with signs and symptoms suggestive of cervical cancer at any age should be investigated **using a clinician-collected** co-test (HPV and liquid-based cytology (LBC)).

### Reassurance

Reassure your patients that HPV is very common, and usually cleared independently by the body.

**A positive HPV result does not mean your patient has, or will develop, cervical cancer.**

# Cervical screening: Management of test results in pregnancy

## Test results

- Low risk - HPV not detected:**  
Return for next screen in 5 years.
- Intermediate risk - HPV (not 16/18) detected, and**
  - reflex LBC negative/pLSIL/LSIL:**  
Repeat test in 12 months
  - reflex LBC pHSIL/HSIL or glandular abnormality:**  
Refer for colposcopy.
- Higher risk - HPV (16/18) detected:**  
Refer for colposcopy, regardless of LBC result.

## Colposcopy

Colposcopy is safe and referral should not be delayed during pregnancy.

## Requesting pathology

Information to include on the pathology request form:

- If the sample was self-collected, write: 'CST - self-collected' or 'Follow-up HPV test - self-collected'.
- Record whether the patient is of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin or both.

## Management of suspected high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL)

- Conservative management of HSIL is recommended during pregnancy.
- Regression of CIN lesions is common in the postpartum period.
- Definitive treatment of a suspected high-grade lesion, except invasive cancer, may be safely deferred until after the pregnancy.
- If invasive disease is found in pregnancy, the patient should be referred urgently to a gynaecological oncologist.

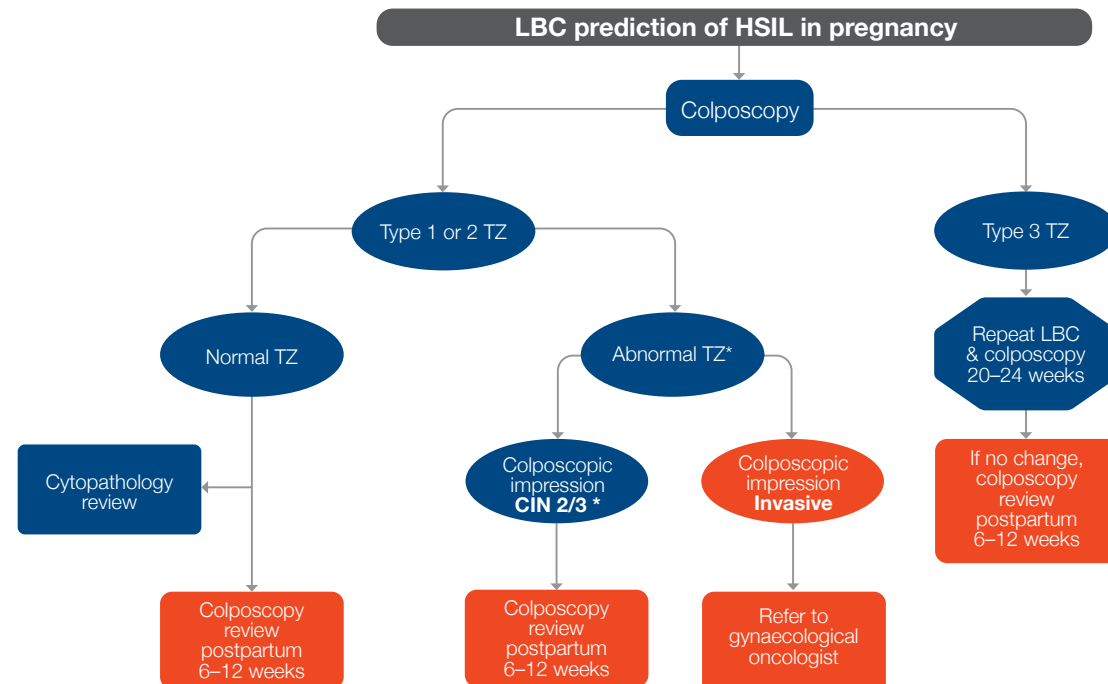


Diagram sourced from cancer.org.au

\*Biopsy not usually necessary in pregnancy

## Key resources

National Cervical Screening Program Clinical Guidelines



Pathology test guide for cervical and vaginal testing



WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (WACCPP)

For further local resources and information visit [kemh.health.wa.gov.au/cervical](http://kemh.health.wa.gov.au/cervical)

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

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