

Screening for cervical cancer

If you are aged between 23 and 64, you can be screened for cervical cancer. The screening can find HPV (Human Pappilomavirus) or abnormal cells in your cervix, which, if left untreated, can lead to cervical cancer.

The Danish Health Authority recommends screening for cervical cancer. But it is important that you make the decision yourself.

Why are you invited to the screening?

Cervical cancer can be prevented by discovering HPV or abnormal cells before they develop into cancer. Therefore, you are invited to an examination even though you have no symptoms of cervical cancer. Women who have been vaccinated for HPV are also offered screening for cervical cancer.

Even if you are screened, you may still have or develop cervical cancer. It is important that you see your doctor if you have pelvic symptoms, for example unexpected bleeding or pelvic pain.

How is the screening performed?

The screening is performed as a gynaecological examination by your doctor. A cell sample will be taken from your cervix with a small brush.

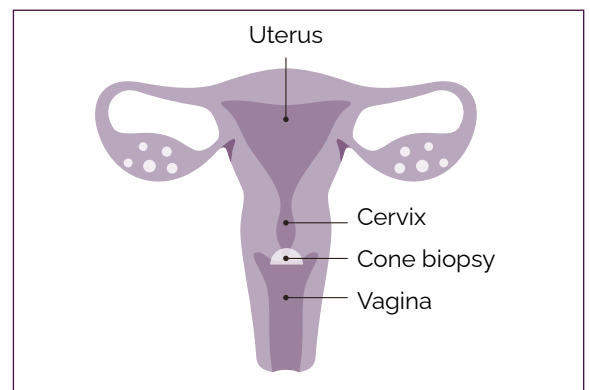
The vast majority of women are informed that their sample is normal. If your sample shows cell abnormalities, you will be offered further examinations.

What are the pros of screening?

- If abnormal cells are detected at an early stage, many cases of cervical cancer can be avoided.
- If abnormal cells are detected at an early stage, you can reduce your risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from cervical cancer.
- If cancer is detected early, the treatment can be less invasive.

What are the cons of screening?

- Some women experience discomfort related to the gynaecological examination. It may be a good idea to tell your doctor if you feel uncomfortable about the examination.
- The examination can raise a suspicion of abnormal cells, where further tests show that it was false alarm. The period in which you are waiting for the test results may cause anxiety.
- Even if your screening shows no signs of abnormal cells, you may nevertheless have or develop abnormal cells. The risk of abnormalities being overlooked is lower if you participate in regular screening.
- You risk receiving a treatment that is unnecessary as the screening may find abnormal cells that in some cases would not have developed into cancer. Unnecessary treatment may have adverse effects.



If you have any questions about the screening, please contact the region you live in

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You can read more about cervical cancer and the screening programme on www.sst.dk/screening or scan the QR Code with your phone.

