



The Cervical Screening Test for Pregnant Women

Practice Points for Health Professionals

“A woman can be safely screened at any time during pregnancy, provided that the correct sampling equipment is used.”

https://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Clinical_question:Screening_in_pregnancy

- Routine antenatal and postpartum care should include a review of the patient’s cervical screening history
 - Offer a Cervical Screening Test at any stage of a patient’s antenatal care if they are 25 years old or over, and if they are due or overdue
 - Cervical screening during pregnancy gives a good test sample
 - Reassure the patient that cervical screening is safe during pregnancy
 - The Cyto-broom is recommended to collect a cervical screening specimen in pregnant patients. The endocervical brush should not be used because of the associated bleeding which may distress women (REC 14.12: Cervical screening in pregnancy)
- Pregnancy is a good time to offer a Cervical Screening Test. It can be hard for women to make time for their own health after their baby is born
 - Some patients may wish to defer their Cervical Screening Test until after they give birth, however this may result in a further twelve month delay in completing the test. Advise them the screening test will be recommended again at their postnatal visit

Cervical Screening in the postpartum period

- Testing for oncogenic HPV is accurate at any time.
- There can be difficulties in interpreting reflex Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) results and/or an increase in unsatisfactory reflex LBC results in the early period after birth. For this reason it is preferable to offer screening at 3 months or later post-partum. Clinicians will need to make a judgement about when to offer screening, as ‘opportunistic screening’ at 6 weeks postpartum is still better than no screening at all.



Cyto-broom

- Self-collection may be considered during pregnancy in eligible women following counselling by a health care professional regarding the risk of bleeding. (see REC 14.13 Self collection in pregnancy)



Self-collected (HPV) swab

For consumer information about cervical screening during pregnancy go to:

<https://www.cancer.org.au/cervicalscreening/over-25/pregnant>



Requiring an interpreter?

A free telephone 24 hour interpreting service is available for medical practitioners in private practice.

For more information or to register for the **Doctor's Priority Line** contact **TIS National on 1300 575 847**