Guidance Note 11



Cervical Screening Post Total Hysterectomy

Most women who have had a total hysterectomy do not require vaginal vault screening post operatively.

However, there are occasions when a treating clinician may advise that a screening test should be taken following treatment for CIN even though the cervix has been removed along with the uterus at hysterectomy. In this instance the follow up is determined by the treating clinician in line with colposcopy management recommendations.

Note: Where a woman has had a sub total hysterectomy and the cervix is insitu, then routine screening is recommended.

How to take a Vault Screen

The upper end of the vagina must be inspected for any abnormal looking lesions and cells harvested from the area where the vaginal scar is visible. If the scar is not visible, an extensive brush action sweeping in a clockwise direction, where possible, five times is advised.

HPV Assay and Laboratory Disclaimer

The HPV test in use by CervicalCheck laboratories has been approved by the manufacturer for use for cervical samples only. The analytical performance characteristics of the assay for clinical purposes have been determined and validated in-house by the laboratory to the appropriate accreditation standards and regulations. All vaginal vault results will include a disclaimer to this effect on the report.

Actions Required

- Establish if a cervix is present post hysterectomy
- Where screening is not indicated, complete and return the Hysterectomy Data Collection form to CervicalCheck (available to download at www.cervicalcheckhse.ie)

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