

Guidance Note 11

Cervical Screening Post Total Hysterectomy

Not all women who have had a hysterectomy will require cervical screening post operatively. However, there are occasions when it is advised that a smear test should be taken even though the cervix has been removed along with the uterus at hysterectomy.

When is screening required?

- If a woman has had routine re-call for at least 10 years prior to hysterectomy and no CIN in the sample at hysterectomy, no vault cytology is required.
- If a woman has had less than 10 years' routine re-call and no CIN at hysterectomy, one vault smear 6 months after surgery is recommended, and there should be no further cytology follow up if it is negative (NAD).
- If a woman has had completely excised CIN at hysterectomy, a sample should be taken from the vault at 6, 12 and 18 months after surgery and there should be no further cytology follow up if all are negative (NAD).
- If a woman has incomplete or uncertain excision of CIN, follow up should be conducted as if the cervix were still in situ.

Note: HPV testing may be performed post hysterectomy in colposcopy. In these cases follow up regime is determined by the discharge recommended by colposcopy.

The Vault Smear

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.

Actions Required

- Establish if a cervix is present post hysterectomy
 - Once post hysterectomy screening is completed, fill out and return the Hysterectomy Data Collection form to CervicalCheck (available to download at www.cervicalcheck.ie)
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References

- NCSS CervicalCheck - Guide for Smeartakers
 - NCSS CervicalCheck – Cervical Cytology Management Recommendations Guide
 - European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Screening – Section 6.9.4
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