

Management of suspicious cervix

What is a clinically suspicious looking cervix?

- Suspicious looking cervix is an all-inclusive term used to describe cervical lesions.
- It can be confused with benign and inflammatory conditions or other physiological anomalies

Assessment

- Some cervical anomalies include Nabothian cysts (mucous retention cysts), cervical eversion, cervical polyp/ fibroid, leukoplakia, endometriosis, obstetric/ surgical trauma or scarring.
- If referral is still required after ruling out the above normal anomalies, this referral should be made without delay.

Screening form

- If the suspicious cervix box is ticked on the screening form the management recommendation on the screening test result, even if negative will state refer to colposcopy.
- It is important to note that cervical screening tests are not diagnostic. It is possible to have a negative test result in the presence of cervical cancer.
- In the event a test is taken, be aware that rapidly dividing cells can look normal to the cytologist and cannot be relied upon. Clinical suspicion always overrides laboratory findings.
- CervicalCheck will inform women by letter to contact her smertaker to discuss the result
- If referral to colposcopy is not made, the woman will also receive a failsafe letter requesting she follows up with her smertaker
- **If suspicious cervix box was ticked in error:** Contact the laboratory in writing and inform them of this error. An amended result will be sent to the practice and the woman will also receive an amended letter to reflect any management recommendation change.

Referral to Colposcopy

- Clearly document the appearance of the cervix – this will enable the lead clinician to vet each referral appropriately
- Forward the cervical screening result to the colposcopy clinic when received in the practice
- The Cervix Image Library is available for reference on the E Learning website on www.nssresources.ie/cervicalcheck/resources This will aid your assessment of the cervix

Useful References:

- Ying Yiing Lou, Sahathevan Sathiyathan, How Likely Clinically Suspicious Looking Cervix is Cervical Cancer?, World Journal of Research and Review (WJRR) ISSN:2455-3956, Volume-3, Issue-2, August 2016 Pages 18-19
- Casey PM, Long ME, Marnach ML. Abnormal cervical appearance: What to do, when to worry? Mayo Clinic Proceedings February 2011;86(2):147-151
- Milingos DS, Harry VN, Cruickshank ME. The clinically suspicious cervix – how often is it cancer? Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease, Volume 14, Number 3, 2010, 196-199.