



RESULT OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

A cellular change requiring a follow-up examination was detected in your sample.

Most of the changes that require a follow-up examination are harmless and heal on their own. The aim of the examination is to detect a potential precancerous change and, if necessary, to treat it so that it will not develop into cancer over the years.

REFERRAL FOR A FOLLOW-UP EXAMINATION

You will receive an invitation for an endoscopic procedure (colposcopy) at the hospital of your own region. The hospital will send you information about the time and place of the examination, i.e. you don't need to make an appointment yourself. The waiting period is from a few weeks to about six months. It usually takes years for even strong precancerous changes to develop into cancer, so in most cases there is no hurry to have the examination done. The charge for the appointment is the normal outpatient clinic fee.

EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

In colposcopy, the vagina and cervix are examined by means of intense light and a magnifying microscope. Any abnormal areas are made more visible by applying a weak vinegar solution to the cervix. On average, the examination takes 10 to 20 minutes. Biopsies are usually taken at the same time, to determine the need for treatment. A quickly passing pinch may be felt when the biopsies are taken, but some patients feel no pain at all. If needed, local anaesthesia can be applied to the areas where the biopsies are taken.

A CELLULAR CHANGE DOES NOT MEAN CANCER

The follow-up examination is used to determine whether the cellular change requires treatment. Milder changes often heal on their own over time. If treatment is needed, it can easily be given at the precancerous stage, thus preventing the development of cancer altogether. In the end, at most one woman out of 10,000 screened is diagnosed with cancer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SCREENING AND CERVICAL CANCER

www.cervicalscreening.fi
www.allaboutcancer.fi