Note: It is critical that females who do not need annual cervical cancer screening continue with annual appointments to obtain other appropriate preventive healthcare. Women with significant comorbidities or life-threatening illnesses may forego cervical cancer screening. This algorithm is not intended for women with a personal history of cervical cancer.

**Cervical Cancer Screening**

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**AGE TO BEGIN**

**SCREENING**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Under 21 years of age

Screening not recommended

21 - 29 years of age

Liquid-based Pap test every 3 years

- Co-testing (Pap test and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing) every 5 years (preferred) or
- Primary HPV testing with reflex cytology every 5 years (preferred) or
- Pap test with reflex HPV testing every 3 years or
- Pap test alone every 3 years

> 65 years of age

Routine screening is usually not recommended with adequate prior screening

30 - 65 years of age

Abnormal Pap test and/or HPV test positive

See diagnostic guidelines

Status post hysterectomy for benign disease

Routine screening is usually not recommended

Note: Patients who have received the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine should continue to be screened according to the above guideline.

1. See the Cervical Cancer treatment or Survivorship algorithms for the management of women with a personal history of cervical cancer
2. Because of the relatively high HPV prevalence before age 30 years, HPV co-testing is recommended only for women with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in this age group
3. Patients with certain risk factors [diethylstilbestrol (DES) exposure in utero, immunosuppression such as HIV or organ transplant on immunosuppressive therapy] should continue to be screened annually. Patients with HIV should have Pap testing alone or Pap testing and HPV co-testing twice in the first year after diagnosis and then annually. Screening in patients with HIV should continue throughout a patient’s lifetime (and not, as in the general population, end at 65 years of age).
4. An alternative option would be to wait until age 25 and screen with primary HPV testing every 5 years
5. Prior screening:
   - 2 consecutive negative co-tests (Pap tests with HPV testing) within the past 10 years with the most recent test within the last 5 years or
   - 3 consecutive negative Pap tests within the past 10 years with the most recent test within the last 3 years or
   - 2 consecutive negative primary HPV tests within the past 10 years with the most recent test within the last 5 years
6. Patients with supracervical hysterectomies should follow the guidelines as for patients without a hysterectomy

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Cervical Cancer Screening

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SUGGESTED READINGS


Cervical Cancer Screening

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