

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand who should be screened for cervical cancer based on age and past history
2. Determine when a gynecologic referral is indicated based on pap smear results
3. Explain who should obtain the HPV vaccine

CASE ONE:

The Nicola family has just moved to town. You will be taking care of a few members of the family. At the first appointment with their daughter Niki, age 18, you learn that she is not sexually active, but she has a boyfriend with whom she has discussed having sex. Niki tells you that they will use condoms if they do have sex because she doesn't want to become pregnant. Her mother, who is present during the interview, tells you that her daughter needs to have a Pap smear because she is "of age". The daughter is confused about why she should have the screening exam and wants to know if she really needs one.

Questions:

1. What should you tell her?
2. If she was known to be HIV positive, how would that change your recommendations for cervical cancer screening?

CASE ONE CONTINUED:

Niki tells you that she heard about a vaccine to protect against cervical cancer and asks you how good the vaccine is and if she should receive it.

- 3. How do you counsel her regarding the HPV vaccine?**

CASE TWO:

Pleased with the care of her daughter, Mrs. Nicola, a 40 year-old woman, comes in to establish care, bringing with her her old records. In your review, you note that she had a screening pap smear with HPV test three months ago. The results showed LSIL (low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion) and HPV positivity. She does not recall being told these results and does not remember having an abnormal pap smear in the past.

- 4. How should you proceed given these results?**

CASE THREE:

Ms. Nicola also refers her 75-year-old mother to you. Her mother is healthy and is being treated for hypertension and hypothyroidism. Her mother tells you that she is tired of having pap smears done and wonders if she can stop them once and for all. You review her chart and note that she had three normal pap smears in the past three years.

5. What factors would influence your decision to perform the screening pap?

Primary References:

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2. TABLE from: Castle PE, Sideri M, Jeronimo J, Solomon D, Schiffman M. Risk assessment to guide the prevention of cervical cancer. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 2007;197:356.e1-356.e6.
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Additional Reference:

4. Harris TG et al. Incidence of cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions associated with HIV serostatus, CD4 cell counts, and human papillomavirus test results. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2005;293(12):1471-1476.