

Table 1. Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines

	American Cancer Society¹ (ACS, Nov 2002)	U. S. Preventive Services Task Force² (USPSTF, Jan 2003)	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists³ (ACOG, Aug 2003)
When to start	Approximately 3 years after onset of vaginal intercourse, but no later than age 21	Within 3 years of onset of sexual activity or age 21, whichever comes first	Approximately 3 years after onset of sexual intercourse, but no later than age 21
Intervals			
Conventional Pap test	Annually; every 2-3 years for women ≥ 30 with 3 negative cytology tests*	At least every 3 years	Annually; every 2-3 years for women ≥ 30 with 3 negative cytology tests*
If liquid-based cytology used**	Every 2 years; every 2-3 years for women ≥ 30 with 3 negative cytology tests*	Insufficient evidence	Annually; every 2-3 years for women ≥ 30 with 3 negative cytology tests*
If HPV testing used**	Every 3 years if HPV negative, cytology negative	Insufficient evidence	Every 3 years if HPV negative, cytology negative
When to stop	Women ≥ 70 years with ≥ 3 recent, consecutive negative tests & no abnormal tests in prior 10 years*	Women > 65 years with negative tests, who are not otherwise at high risk for cervical cancer	Inconclusive evidence to establish upper age limit
Post total hysterectomy	Discontinue if for benign reasons & no prior history of high-grade CIN*	Discontinue if for benign reasons	Discontinue if for benign reasons & no prior history of high-grade CIN*

*Some exceptions apply (e.g., women who are immunocompromised, have a history of prenatal exposure to DES, etc.). See guidelines for details.

** See Table 2 (entitled "Recommendations for Liquid-Based Cytology and HPV Testing") for recommended use.

¹ Saslow D, et al. American Cancer Society Guideline for the Early Detection of Cervical Neoplasia and Cancer. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2002; 52: 342-362. Available at: <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/52/6/342>

² USPSTF. *Screening for Cervical Cancer*. Jan 2003. Available at: <http://www.ahcpr.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspsscerv.htm>

³ ACOG. Cervical Cytology Screening. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 45. *ACOG* 2003;102: 417-427. See also: http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr07-31-03-1.cfm

Table 2. Recommendations for Liquid-Based Cytology and HPV Testing

	American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology ¹	American Cancer Society ²	U. S. Preventive Services Task Force ³	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ⁴	American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and American Cancer Society ⁵
	(ASCCP, Apr 2002)	(ACS, Nov 2002)	(USPSTF, Jan 2003)	(ACOG, Aug 2003)	(ASCCP & ACS, Feb 2004)
Liquid-based cytology	--	Option	Insufficient Evidence	Option	--
HPV testing					
Women with ASC-US (reflex testing)	Recommended*, Guidance Provided ¹	Option ⁶	Insufficient Evidence	Option	--
Women ≥30 years (adjunct to Pap test)	--	Option	Insufficient Evidence	Option	Recommended*, Guidance Provided ⁵

*Some exceptions apply [e.g., women who are immunosuppressed for any reason, including infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)]

¹ Wright TC, et al. 2001 Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Women with Cervical cytological abnormalities. *JAMA*;2002; 287: 2120-2129. See also: <http://www.asccp.org/consensus.shtml>

² Saslow D, et al. American Cancer Society Guideline for the Early Detection of Cervical Neoplasia and Cancer. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2002; 52: 342-362. Available at: <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/52/6/342>

³ USPSTF. *Screening for Cervical Cancer*. Jan 2003. Available at: <http://www.ahcpr.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspscerv.htm>

⁴ ACOG. Cervical Cytology Screening. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 45. *ACOG* 2003; 102: 417-427. See also: http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr07-31-03-1.cfm

⁵ Wright TC, et al. Interim Guidance for the Use of Human Papillomavirus DNA Testing as an Adjunct to Cervical cytology for screening. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2004; 103: 304-309.

⁶ ACS. Patient Pages: Early Detection of Cervical Cancer. *CA Cancer J Clin*, 2002; 52: 375 - 376. See also: <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/52/6/375>

*Screening recommendations for cervical cancer
(Adapted from Smith et al., 2003; Zoorob et al., 2001)*

Medical organization	Screening recommendations
AAFP	Pap test at least every 3 years to women who have ever had sexual intercourse and who have a cervix
ACOG	Annual Pap test and pelvic examination beginning at age 18 or when sexually active; after 3 or more tests with normal results, Pap test may be performed less frequently on physician's advice
ACS*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Begin cervical cancer screening about 3 years after onset of sexual activity and by age 21; annual screening with regular Pap test or every 2 years using the liquid-based cytology ▪ At age 30, women with 3 normal Pap test results in a row may get screened every 2 to 3 years with regular or liquid-based testing; women who have certain risk factors should continue to be screened annually ▪ An option for women over 30 is to get screened every 3 years with either conventional or liquid-based testing, plus HPV DNA testing ▪ Women 70 years or older with 3 or more normal Pap tests in a row and no abnormal Pap test results in past 10 years may choose to stop having cervical cancer screening
AGS	Pap test every 3 years until age 70; in women of any age who have never had a Pap test, screening with at least 2 negative smears, 1 year apart
AMA	Annual Pap tests and pelvic examination starting at age 18 (or when sexually active); after 3 or more normal annual Pap tests, the Pap may be performed less frequently at the physician's discretion
CTFPHC	Pap test annually beginning at age 18 or following initiation of sexual activity; after 2 normal results, perform Pap tests every 3 years to age 69
USPSTF	Pap test at least every 3 years in women who have ever had sexual intercourse and who have a cervix; discontinue regular testing after age 65 if Pap test results have been consistently normal

*In 2003, the American Cancer Society updated their screening recommendations for cervical cancer. Abbreviations for medical organizations: AAFP = American Academy of Family Physicians; ACOG = American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; ACS = American Cancer Society; AGS = American Geriatrics Society; AMA = American Medical Association; CTFPHC = Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care; USPSTF = United States Preventive Services Task Force