



# Abnormal cervical screening results.

## The facts.

### Facts about abnormal screening results in the UK

1. Cervical abnormalities form in cells of the cervix (the organ connecting the uterus and vagina).
2. Almost all cases of high grade cervical changes are caused by a common virus called Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
3. Over 300,000 women are diagnosed with cervical abnormalities each year.

### Types of abnormal screening results

- Borderline result indicates a slight abnormality.
- Low grade dyskaryosis indicates mild changes.
- High grade dyskaryosis indicates moderate or severe changes.
- Glandular cell changes indicates abnormal cells in the cervical canal.

### Further tests

1. If you have received an abnormal result you may be invited to attend for colposcopy.
2. Colposcopy is simply a more detailed look at the cervix using a microscope.
3. The microscope stays outside you. All that goes inside is the speculum, similar to when your screening sample was taken.
4. You may need treatment to remove the abnormal cells. Your clinician will advise you about this.

## Treatment for abnormal cells

1. Treatment for the abnormal cells depends on how advanced the changes to the cells are.
2. Borderline and low grade changes do not usually require treatment. Depending where you live you may also have an HPV test\*.
3. High grade changes are usually treated with large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ) which removes the abnormal area with a wire loop.
4. In some cases a surgery called a cone biopsy may be offered as treatment.

## Just diagnosed and need support

**A diagnosis of cervical abnormalities can be a worrying time. Sometimes all you want to do is talk to someone else who's been through it...**

We're here to provide you with information and support:

- A website with up to date information written and reviewed by experts.
- A wide range of factsheets and materials.
- An online forum where you can share experiences.
- A dedicated helpline 0808 802 8000.
- The opportunity to send a question to one of our medical experts using our Ask The Expert service.

We also work to raise awareness of cervical cancer and support women affected by cervical cancer.

**\* For more information on HPV testing please go to our website or order our factsheet.**

This leaflet has been produced by:



**T** 020 7250 8311

**E** info@jostrust.org.uk

**www.jostrust.org.uk**

**Helpline: 0808 802 8000**

The information included in this publication was correct at the time of going to press. We plan to review publications after two years however updates may happen more frequently. For updates or for the latest information, visit [jostrust.org.uk](http://jostrust.org.uk).

