

QUICK READS BY VISTA PATHOLOGY

Updates for best practice in clinical and surgical pathology

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How should a patient with no endocervical cells on her Pap be managed?

In most women for whom cervical cancer screening is appropriate:

- Non-pregnant: Pap in 12 months
- Pregnant: Pap at postpartum visit

Patients who may benefit from an early repeat Pap (within 6 months):

- Previous abnormal Pap (ASC-US or worse) without 3 subsequent negative Paps with endocervical cells
- Positive HPV within 12 months
- Previous Pap with unexplained glandular abnormality
- Irregular or otherwise insufficient previous screening
- Cannot clearly visualize cervix or sample the endocervical canal
- Immunosuppression

Endocervical cells are less frequently seen with:

- Oral contraceptive use
- In pregnancy
- After menopause



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A full discussion of this topic can be found in the following: Davey DD et al. Cervical cytology specimen adequacy: patient management guidelines and optimizing specimen collection. *Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease*. 2008 Apr; 12(2):71-81