



Pearl of Wisdom™ Campaign to Prevent Cervical Cancer

Tips for Talking with Your Healthcare Provider About Cervical Cancer Prevention

Congratulations! By scheduling your annual gynecologic appointment, you've taken a first step towards maintaining your reproductive health and protecting yourself from cervical cancer. Following are questions about cervical cancer prevention to review before your appointment so that you're prepared to talk with your healthcare provider about this important topic:

1. How can I tell whether or not I have HPV? How does having HPV affect my risk for developing cervical cancer and other diseases?
2. Am I a good candidate for the HPV vaccine? I understand there are two vaccines. What are the differences?
3. Am I a good candidate for the HPV test along with my Pap test?
4. What procedures can you do if I have an abnormal Pap test?
5. Does having an abnormal Pap test mean I have cancer?
6. If treatment is necessary, please explain the treatment you recommend. Given the multiple treatment options available, why is one better for me than the others?
7. How much will the treatment cost, and what kind of follow-up testing will be necessary?
8. What are the side effects of this treatment?
9. How soon after treatment will I be able to have sex?
10. If I'm pregnant, or plan to get pregnant, how will HPV affect me and my baby?

These tips are adapted from material from HealthyWomen and have been reviewed by women's health expert Dr. Marie Savard. Additional information can be found at www.healthywomen.org and in the new book, *Ask Dr. Marie: Straight Talk & Reassuring Answers to Your Most Private Questions* (see www.dr.savard.com for more information).