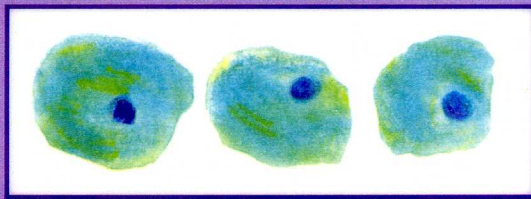


# DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SMEAR REPORT?

Our bodies are made up of cells.

Cells from different parts of the body look slightly different.

Cells from the neck of the womb (cervix) look like this when magnified under the microscope.



The middle bit is the NUCLEUS

When a cervical smear is taken, some of these cells are gently wiped from the cervix and are put onto a glass slide, ready for examination. There are thousands of cells on each slide.

If there are not enough cells to give an accurate assessment then the smear is termed "INSUFFICIENT" or "INADEQUATE"

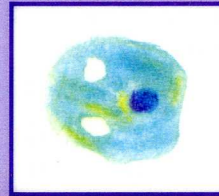
Another smear is taken after a few weeks

## INFLAMMATORY SMEAR

If we were to look in our mouths every day, on some days the throat would look inflamed, perhaps when we have a cold. If there is tonsillitis, it looks really sore.

Usually though, it gets better without any help or sometimes, antibiotics are needed.

In the same way, the cervix can show inflamed cells (though you can't see them!). They look like this



This may happen before a period or for several other reasons; and the changes settle with no help.

Sometimes, though, a mild infection may cause these changes. Your doctor may take swabs (like having a smear) and have tests done to identify any infection. Antibiotic tablets or pessaries may be needed.

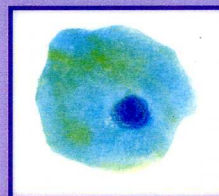
**Treatment for an inflammatory smear is not always needed and could do more harm than good.**

Please ask if you want to know more about this.

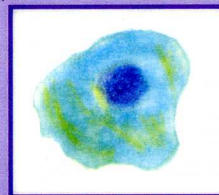
Whether treatment is needed or not, a smear in six months is advisable to be sure the inflammation has settled.

The other reports you will hear about are

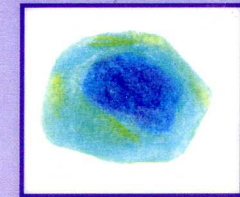
- BORDERLINE DYSKARYOSIS
- MILD DYSKARYOSIS (CIN1)



- MODERATE DYSKARYOSIS (CIN2)



- SEVERE DYSKARYOSIS (CIN3)



The word dyskaryosis means "abnormal nucleus" and indicates that the nucleus has changed a bit more.

CIN stands for Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia.

These are **EARLY WARNING CELLS** (not cancer).

If there is moderate or severe dyskaryosis then it is better to remove the cells, so that the new cells beneath, grow normally. This is IN CASE cancer were to develop in the future.

Borderline and mild dyskaryosis are often not treated at first, but only if they persist after several smears. This is because these changes often settle on their own, without any treatment.

There are several simple ways of removing early warning cells (with local anaesthetic so no pain is felt).

The TREATMENT offered depends on local facilities but also on the degree and extent of the changes. They will be explained at the COLPOSCOPY CLINIC where treatment is carried out.

There is **COAGULATOR** treatment

**LASER** treatment

**LOOP EXCISION**

Because sex can sometimes irritate the cells of the cervix, sheaths (condoms) MAY help the cells recover (regardless of any other method of contraception being used).

If you want to know anything else about smears please ask us.

This information was compiled with the advice of Dr. Jenny Hopwood