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## 5 Things You Should Know About Your Smear Test

### 1. It Prevents Cervical Cancer

- Cervical cancer is mostly caused by a virus called HPV.
- HPV causes changes to the cells of the cervix, which can lead to cancer.
- [These Changes Can Be Treated To Stop Cancer.](#)
- Most cases of cervical cancer are preventable.

### 2. Everyone With A Cervix Aged 25–64 Is Recommended To Have One

- Anyone who has a cervix is at risk of cervical cancer.
- The changes that smear tests detect often do not have symptoms; having a smear is the only way to know.
- [Cervical Cancer Rates Are Highest In Late Twenties And Thirties](#)

### 3. Do You Need It If You Have Been Vaccinated Against Hpv?

- [Yes!](#) The vaccine does reduce the risk of cervical cancer [But](#) we know it is not 100% effective, so there is still a risk, therefore smear tests are still recommended.

### 4. It Is Quick & Easy

- At your appointment the female nurse will talk you through everything first.
- You will have a space to undress privately.
- She will use a speculum (a small internal instrument) to be able to see your cervix and take the smear, using a special swab.
- [This is very quick - Usually Less Than A Minute.](#)
- This is not painful but can sometimes be a little uncomfortable.

### 5. How To Book Your Appointment

- Call reception on 0161 248 6644.
- We currently have dedicated smear appointments that you can book via Patient Access.
  - <https://www.patientaccess.com/?ReturnUrl=%2F>
- Book directly at reception at the practice.
- Reception can also book you an appointment with a nurse to talk more about it if you want more information/ are not sure if it is right for you.