

the abnormal Pap test

PAP TEST ABNORMALITIES

There are many possible conditions associated with an abnormal Pap test, ranging from:

- Inflammatory changes (caused by infection)
- Dysplasia (microscopic alteration in the size, shape, or organization of cells)
 - Mild dysplasia may indicate HPV
 - Moderate or severe dysplasia may indicate the possibility of early cervical cancer
- Carcinoma in situ (confined to the shallow part of the cervix)
- Invasive carcinoma (see normal and abnormal cervical cells shown at lower right)

CERVICAL ABNORMALITIES

Candida (yeast)

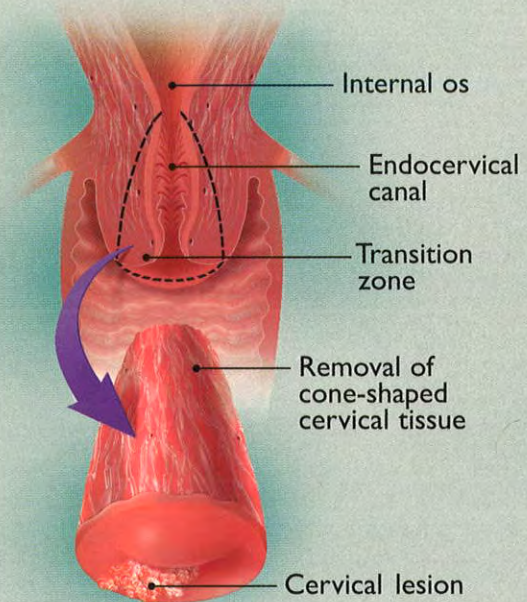


Trichomonas



Ectopy

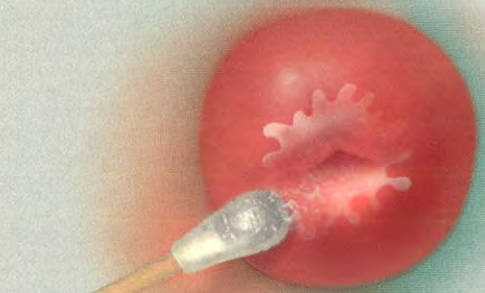
CONE BIOPSY



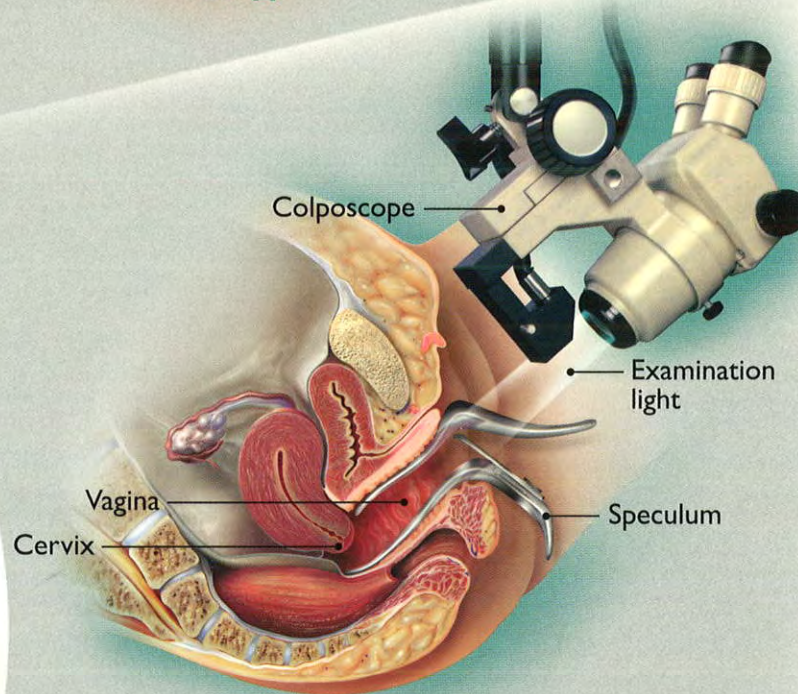
An abnormal Pap test can be classified in 2 ways:

LSIL (low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion): early changes in the size and shape of cells. These are considered mild abnormalities usually caused by HPV infection.

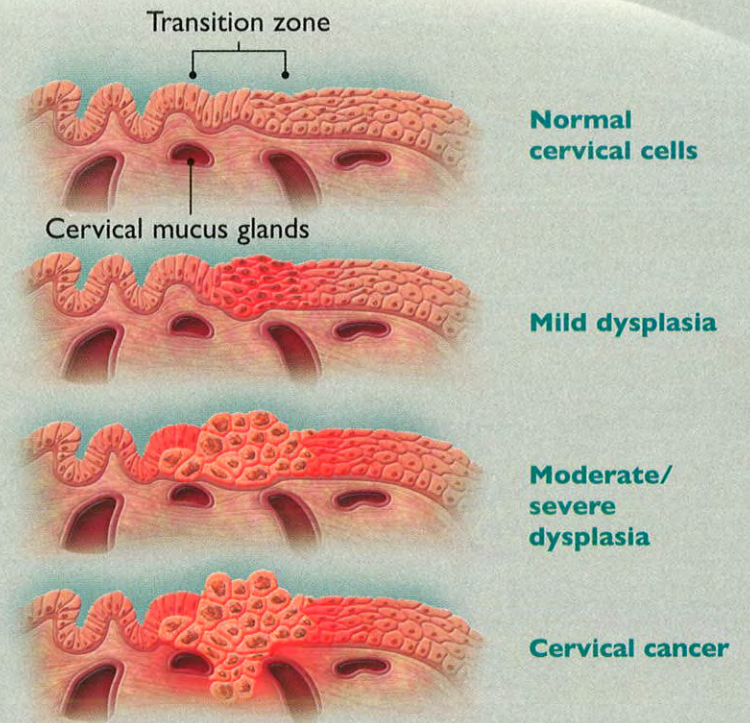
HSIL (high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion): More marked changes in the size and shape of abnormal cells. These cells look very different from "normal" cells and have a greater chance of progressing to invasive cancer (see below).



Acetowhitening effect from application of 3% to 4% acetic acid



COLPOSCOPY



NORMAL AND ABNORMAL CERVICAL CELLS