



Tepeyac OB/GYN
Something More Than Medicine™

About the Pap Smear

The Pap smear is a test that your gynecologist or OB-GYN provider does to screen for precancerous and cancerous cells of the cervix.

The test is conducted during your annual exam. A speculum is inserted in your vagina to open the walls of the vagina, so your cervix is visualized. A small sample of the cervical cells is collected and sent to the lab for analysis.

- Cervical cancer is associated with HPV exposure (Human Papilloma Virus.)
- HPV exposure occurs through sexual activity.
- Pap smears are for women 21 years and older who have been sexually active.
- The recommended frequency for the Pap smear testing is every 3-years, during the ages of 21 to 65 for low-risk women. Women who have multiple partners, are immune-compromised, or have had abnormal paps in the past may require pap smears more frequently.
- After age 30, an HPV co-test is also done with every pap.
- Women may also see their OB-GYN provider for problem visits such as painful periods, heavy bleeding, abnormal discharge, or concern for STDs.

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