

Abnormal pap smear / Colposcopy

The Pap smear results obtained will be placed into one of several groups:

- **Normal:** Only normal cells are visible, with no sign of precancerous cells or cancer cells.
- **Atypical Squamous Cells:** The cells are not normal, but do not meet the criteria for precancerous cancer. The cells may be abnormal appearing because of infection, irritation, intercourse, or may be precancerous.
- **SIL (squamous intraepithelial lesion):** These cells show signs of precancer.
- **Cancer:** The abnormal cells appear to be cancerous.

Follow-Up:

Depending on the findings from your pap test, a follow-up examination or repeat pap smear may be scheduled. Sometimes an exam called a **Colposcopy** may be done. This is a brief visual examination of the vagina and cervix performed using a device like a microscope to look at the cervix for abnormalities. If an area of abnormal cells is seen, then a *biopsy* may be performed. The biopsy involves the removal of a small sample of tissue from the cervix, which will be sent to the lab for further study. Treatment will be recommended based on the results.

Please refer to the following website for further information <http://www.pap-smear.info>.