Prevention is a simple step

Regione del Veneto

Servizio Socio Sanitario Regionale
In Universum Salus

VIVO BENE VENETO
Piano Regionale Prevenzione del Veneto

Cervical cancer screening

What is it?

It is a free programme to help prevent cervical cancer. The cervix is the lower part of the womb that connects it to the vagina. Cervical cancer is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), a very common virus spread through sexual contact. An HPV vaccine is offered to girls and boys at age 12. It helps prevent HPV infection and cancers caused by the virus. The screening programme supports you from the moment you accept your invitation through to diagnosis and, if needed, treatment of any abnormality found.

The entire screening pathway is covered by the Regional Health Service.
You do not need a doctor's referral.

Who is it for?

Women aged 25 to 64 who are resident or domiciled in the Veneto region.

How often?

Ages 25–29: every 3 years with a Pap test.

Ages 30–64: every 5 years with an HPV test.

Women vaccinated against HPV by the age of 15 begin screening at 30 because their risk of cervical cancer is very low.

How does it work?

Taking a sample from the cervix takes only a few minutes. It is usually painless, though it may feel a little uncomfortable.

The test is not carried out during your period. If your period falls on the day of your appointment, call your local health authority (ULSS) to rearrange it.

The screening pathway

- You will receive an invitation by post and in your Electronic Health Record.
- You can also change your appointment through your Electronic Health Record.
- ***If your test result is negative,*** your local health authority (ULSS) will notify you. You will receive another invitation when your next screening is due.
- ***If your test result is positive,*** your local health authority (ULSS) will contact you and invite you for further tests: a gynaecological examination with colposcopy. If your HPV test is positive but the Pap test on the same sample is negative, you will be offered another HPV test in one year.

Why have a pap test?

Screening can detect abnormal changes before they develop into cancer, or find cancers while they are still small. Finding them early can make treatment easier, reduce its impact and improve the chances of recovery.

TAKING PART IN CANCER SCREENING IS A SIMPLE STEP

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT:
Contact your local health authority (ULSS) through the **regional website**

Or visit your Electronic Health Record

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