What is a colposcopy?
A colposcopy is an important step toward prevention after receiving abnormal test results. During a colposcopy procedure, a healthcare provider uses a colposcope (a lighted magnifying device) to look for problems in the cervix that might be missed by the naked eye.

What is a biopsy?
During a colposcopy, your healthcare provider may decide to take a closer look at the cells on the cervix by taking a biopsy or small tissue sample. The biopsy is sent to a laboratory to determine if there are cell changes indicating cervical pre-cancer or cancer. After the procedure, you may feel some soreness and have some vaginal bleeding or discharge.

PAP TEST RESULTS

Normal
No cell changes were found on your cervix. You have a very low risk of developing cervical pre-cancer or cancer in the next 3 years.

Unclear
Some cells on your cervix do not look completely normal, but it is unclear whether this is caused by HPV. Your healthcare provider may suggest an immediate HPV test or a Pap test in 1 year to determine if you need additional follow-up.

Abnormal (low-grade)
Minor cell changes were found on your cervix. Although changes may go away on their own, your healthcare provider may recommend a colposcopy or an HPV test. This will help determine if you need additional follow-up.

Abnormal (high-grade)
Major cell changes were found on your cervix and may result in cervical cancer if not treated. Your healthcare provider may suggest a colposcopy.

HPV TEST RESULTS

Negative
HPV infection was not identified. You have a very low risk of developing cervical pre-cancer or cancer in the next 3 years.

Positive
You have a high-risk HPV infection and have an increased risk of cervical pre-cancer or cancer. Your healthcare provider may suggest waiting a year before retesting you for HPV as many HPV infections go away on their own. Or your original cervical sample can be tested for HPV 16 or HPV 18.

Positive for HPV 16 and HPV 18
You have a high-risk HPV infection with one of the two HPV types most likely to cause cancer. This means you have an increased risk of cervical pre-cancer or cancer. Your healthcare provider may suggest that you have a colposcopy.

PAP AND HPV TEST RESULTS (CO-TEST)

Pap normal and HPV negative
No cell changes were found on your cervix and HPV infection was not identified. You have an extremely low risk of developing cervical pre-cancer or cancer in the next 5 years.

Pap unclear and HPV negative
Some cells on your cervix do not look normal since HPV infection was not detected, you have a very low risk of developing cervical pre-cancer or cancer. Your healthcare provider may suggest co-testing again in 3 years.

Pap abnormal (low-grade) and HPV negative
Minor cell changes were found on your cervix. Although changes may go away on their own, your healthcare provider may suggest repeat co-testing or colposcopy.

Pap abnormal (low grade) and HPV positive
Minor cell changes were found on your cervix and you have a high-risk HPV infection. Your healthcare provider may suggest a colposcopy.

Pap abnormal (high grade) and either HPV negative or positive
Major cell changes were found on your cervix and may result in cervical cancer if not treated. Your healthcare provider may recommend a colposcopy.

Pap normal and HPV positive
No cell changes were found on your cervix, however you have a high-risk HPV infection and therefore an increased risk of cervical pre-cancer and cancer. Your healthcare provider may suggest waiting a year before repeating an HPV test since many HPV infections go away on their own. Or your original cervical sample can be tested for HPV 16 or HPV 18. If you are positive for HPV 16 or HPV 18 your healthcare provider may suggest a colposcopy.

Pap unclear and HPV positive
Some cells on your cervix do not look completely normal, and you have a high-risk HPV infection. You are at increased risk of cervical precancer or cancer. Your healthcare provider may suggest a colposcopy.

What is the cobas® HPV Test?
The cobas® HPV Test is used in cervical cancer screening to determine a woman’s risk of precancer or cancer. The test provides three results in one test: individual results for HPV 16 and HPV 18, in addition to a pooled result for 12 other high-risk HPV types. Having immediate information about your risk of cervical cancer can help you and your doctor determine what next steps to take.