

HPV TESTING IS SAFE

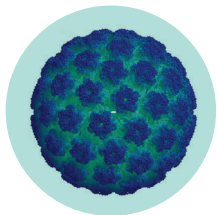


VCS Pathology

90%

**of people will have HPV
in their lifetime**

Occasionally HPV remains inactive in the cells and can be re-activated in later life. This is why it is important to continue to have tests even if you've been with the same partner or haven't been sexually active for many years.



**There are 14 HPV types
that cause 93%
of cervical cancers and all of
these types are detected by the
cervical screening test**

The new cervical screening test looks for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

HPV is so common that most sexually active people will be infected at some stage, as genital HPV is spread through skin to skin contact during sex.

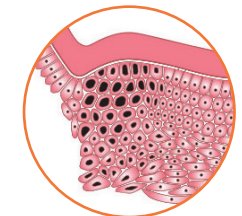
HPV usually has no symptoms and is cleared from the body naturally. Occasionally it causes serious disease.

98% of people infected with genital HPV will clear the virus naturally within 5 years

A few types of HPV have the potential to cause cervical cancer.

HPV 16 & 18 are responsible for 77% of cancers of the cervix in Australia.

And if a woman, or person with a cervix, has persistent infection with one of the HPV types that have the potential to cause cancer, cell changes may occur in the cervix.



So if we find HPV is present, the cells of the cervix will be automatically examined for any changes.

Depending on the type of HPV and the cell changes found, you might need immediate further investigation or a repeat test in 12 months.

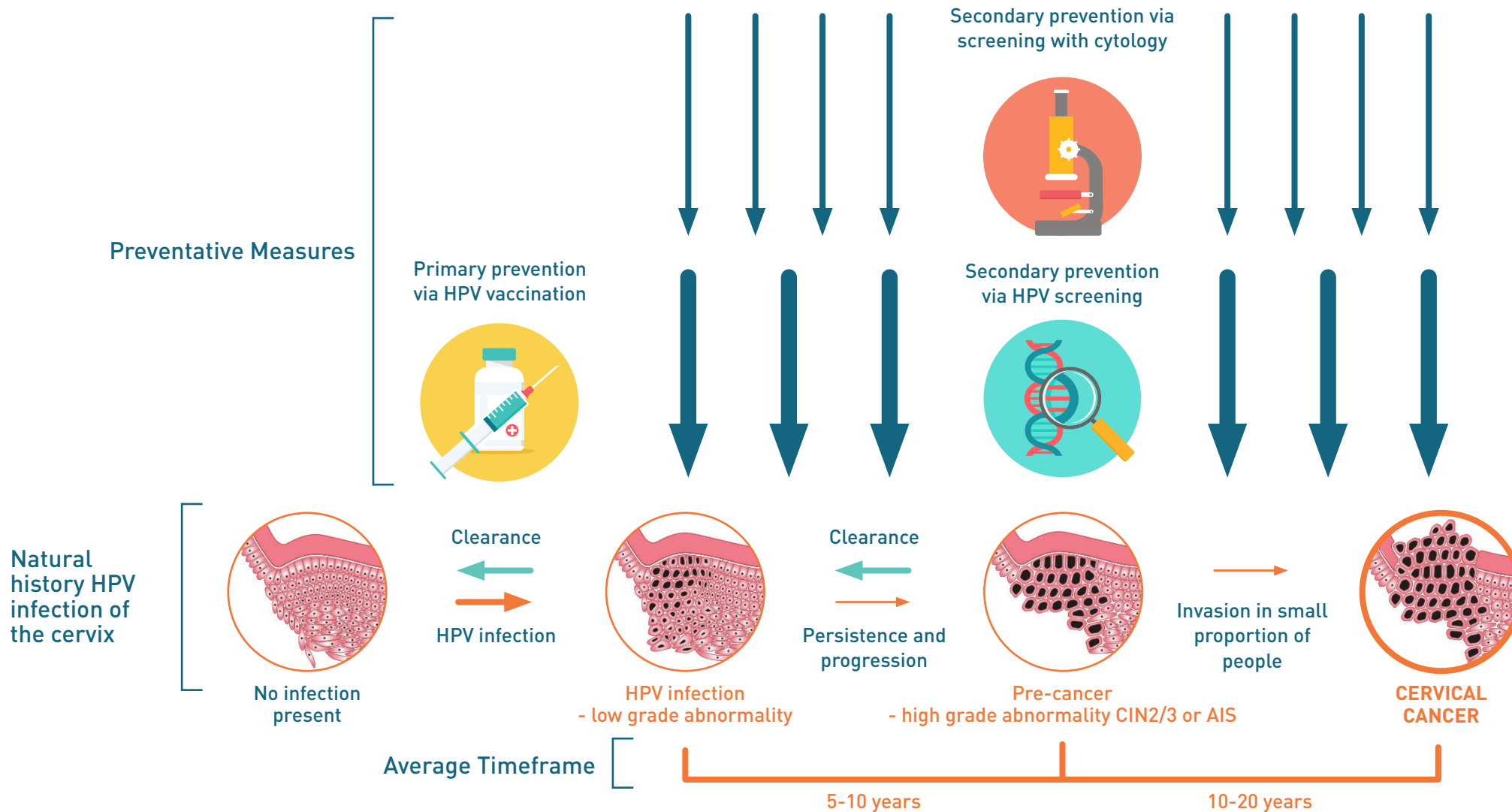
30% more cases of cervical cancer will be prevented with the new National Cervical Screening Program compared with the Pap Smear Program



HPV TO CERVICAL CANCER



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This illustration has been adapted from Schiffman M 2005