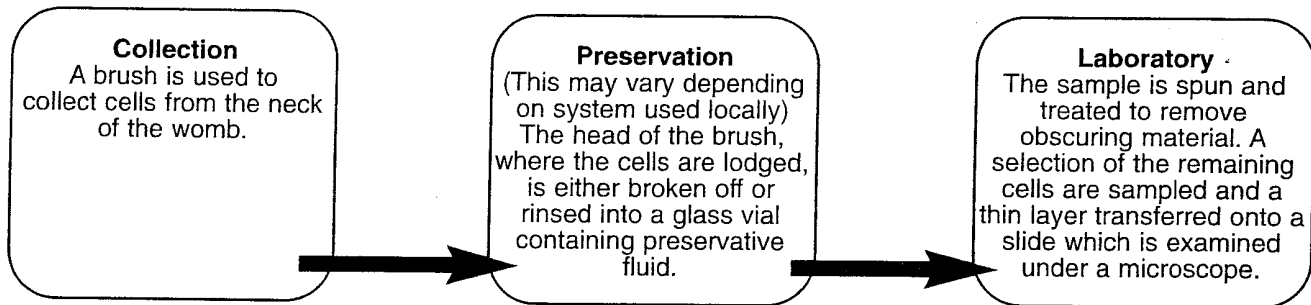


Liquid based cytology (LBC) and national policy

What is LBC?

A new way of collecting and preparing cervical samples for examination in the laboratory



Frequently asked questions

What are the benefits of LBC?

Who

Women

Benefits

Reduction in inadequate tests will lessen women's anxiety and uncertainty. LBC will also reduce the time women will wait for their results as slides can be reported more quickly.

Staff

Reduces the number of inadequate tests, and the pressure on a skilled workforce.

Will women notice a difference when they have their cervical test?

No, the test will not feel any different, although women may notice a slight difference in the way their sample is prepared.

When will LBC be introduced?

LBC is currently being introduced across England as laboratory staff and sample takers are retrained. Roll-out should be complete by 2008. The actual timescale is determined locally by SHAs and PCTs.

Protocol for cervical screening

Age group

25

25-49

50-64

65+

Frequency

first invitation

3 yearly

5 yearly

only screen those whose last three tests included an abnormal result¹

Introduction of the changes in frequency will follow locally determined timescales

The effectiveness of screening

- Incidence of cervical cancer fell by 42 per cent between 1988 and 1997 (England & Wales). This fall is directly related to the cervical screening programme².
- Cervical screening now prevents approximately 5,000 deaths a year³ in the UK.

For more information visit www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

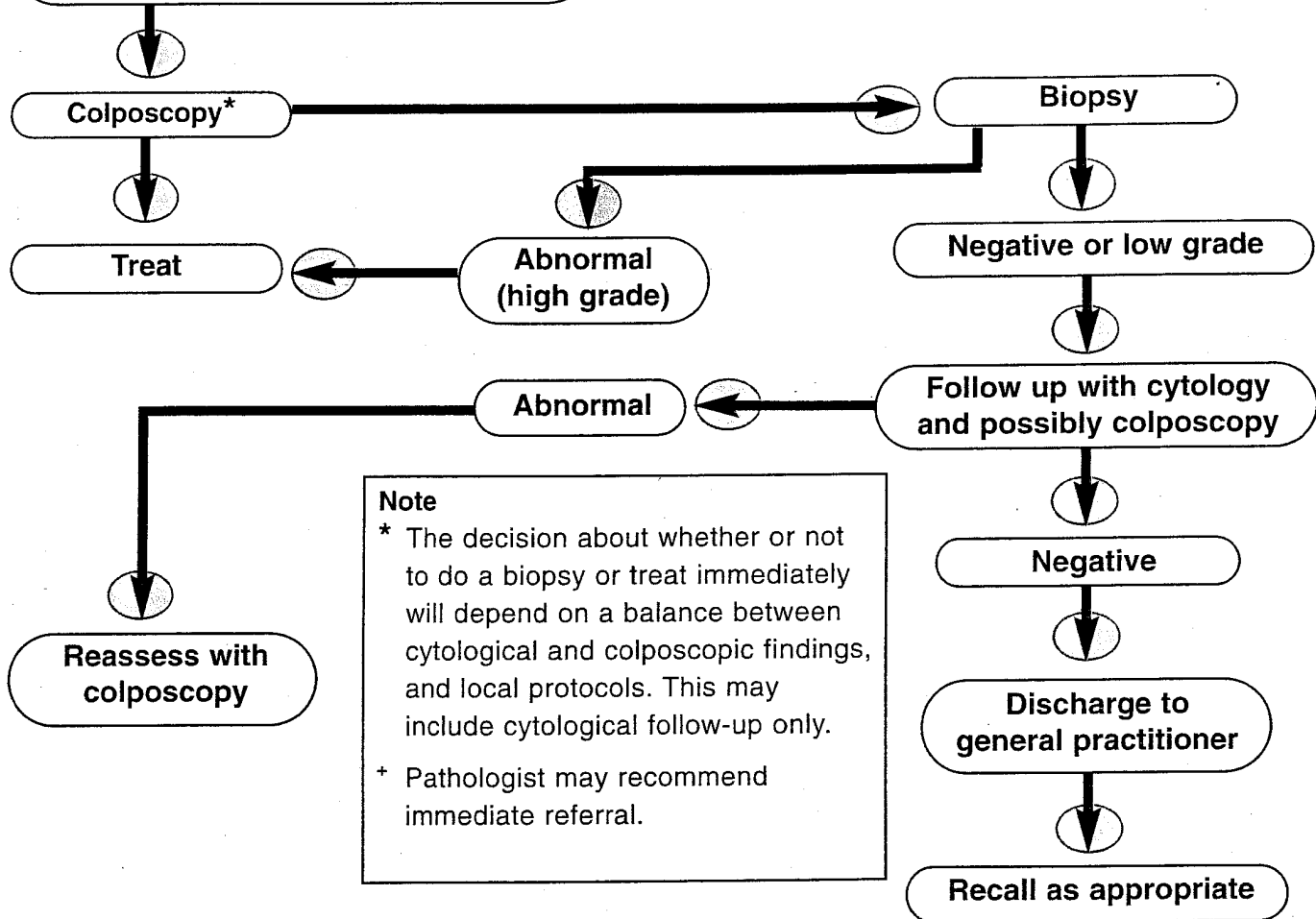
¹ Sasieni P, Adams JK, Cuzick J, BJC 2003, 89: 88-93 / IARC, Handbook of Cancer Prevention No.10 (www.iarc.fr)

² National Statistics, Health Quarterly Statistics 07, Autumn 2000

PROTOCOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF ABNORMAL RESULTS

Refer after cytology if result is:

- Inadequate on **three** occasions
- Borderline on **three** occasions*
- Mild dyskaryosis on **two** occasions*
- Moderate dyskaryosis on **one** occasion
- Severe dyskaryosis on **one** occasion
- ? Invasive / ? Glandular: **urgent** referral
- Three borderline or more severe results in 10 years without referral



Recall protocol for negative screening results

Patient's history	Recall interval
No previous cervical screening history	Routine recall
Previous screening results negative	Routine recall
Women aged 65 and over with no previous negative screening history	Three consecutive negative tests, no further recall
Previous abnormal cytology	For minor abnormalities (borderline and mild dyskaryosis) follow protocol for the particular abnormality
Previously treated for CIN	Follow-up protocol for patients treated for CIN
Previous CIN1 (not treated)	At least 3 negative tests, 6-12 months apart then routine recall