

How are abnormal Pap test results described?

- **ASC-US**—This means that changes in the cervical cells have been found. The changes are almost always a sign of an HPV infection. ASC-US is the most common abnormal Pap test result. ASC-US stands for atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance. “Squamous” refers to the type of cells that make up the tissue that covers the cervix.
- **LSIL**—This means that the cervical cells show changes that are mildly abnormal. LSIL usually is caused by an HPV infection that often goes away on its own. LSIL stands for low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion.
- **HSIL**—This suggests more serious changes in the cervix than LSIL. It is more likely than LSIL to be linked to precancer and cancer. HSIL stands for high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion.
- **ASC-H**—ASC-H means that changes in the cervical cells have been found that raise concern for the presence of HSIL. ASC-H stands for atypical squamous cells, cannot exclude HSIL.
- **AGC**—This means that changes have been found in glandular cells that raise concern for the presence of precancer or cancer. Glandular cells are another type of cell that make up the tissue that covers the inner canal of the cervix. Glandular cells also are present inside the uterus. AGC stands for atypical glandular cells.