

When will you receive an invitation?

When you are between 30 and 60 years old, you will automatically receive an invitation for the free screening every 5 years. Are you 40 or 50 years old and has the screening not detected HPV?

In that case, you will receive a new invitation in 10 years' time. If you do not have HPV, the risk of getting cervical cancer within 10 years is very small. So small, that another smear test in 10 years' time will give you sufficient protection.

How to participate?

- You make your own appointment for a smear test at the general practice.
- Have your smear test performed on a day you are not having your period.
- A full bladder or intestine may give an uncomfortable feeling while the smear test is being performed. Therefore, it is wise to go to the toilet beforehand.

You cannot participate or you would like to participate at a later date

You cannot participate if you are pregnant or if you have just given birth. You can participate again six months after having given birth. There are also medical reasons for not (or not yet) participating in the screening. For example, when your cervix has been removed. When in doubt, please consult with your family doctor. If you would like to participate later on or if you would not like to participate at all, please pass this on to the information line. You will find the telephone number in the invitation letter.

It's your decision

Just as with any other medical test, the screening has advantages and disadvantages. The government provides this screening because the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. This may vary from person to person.

Whether or not to participate is your decision. The screening is particularly successful in detecting the preliminary stages of cancer.

Treatment in a preliminary stage can prevent cervical cancer from developing. This is an advantage.

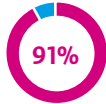
The screening also has disadvantages. For the sake of certainty, a preliminary stage is always treated. Whereas it may sometimes go away on its own. In such cases, treatment would not have been necessary.

What can the results be?

About four weeks after the screening, you will receive a letter with the results. You can get the following results:

No HPV

You do not have an increased risk of cervical cancer. Further testing is not necessary. You may participate in the screening again in the next round of invitations.



91 out of 100 women get this result.

HPV detected, no abnormal cells

You will receive another invitation for a smear test at the family doctor after six months. We then check once again to ensure that no abnormal cells are present.



5 out of 100 women get this result.

HPV and abnormal cells detected

Further examination by a gynaecologist is necessary. He/She will decide whether treatment is necessary.



2 out of 100 women get this result

Unclear

A new smear test is required. Please make an appointment with your family doctor for this in about six weeks after your first smear test.

In 2 out of 100 women, the smear test is inconclusive.

More information about the result?
Please visit www.bevolkingsonderzoekbaarmoederhalskanker.nl



Privacy

In order to be able to send you an invitation, we received your name, address, and date of birth from the municipality. With regard to your data, we comply with the Data Protection Act. We use the results from the test to continue to improve the screening. Therefore, we sometimes exchange data with other organisations. In this context, your data will be protected optimally.

If you object to us sharing data or results from the screening with other organisations, you can voice your objection to this. For more information about privacy or how to object, visit www.bevolkingsonderzoekbaarmoederhalskanker.nl. There, you will also find information about what will happen with the material sampled after the screening.

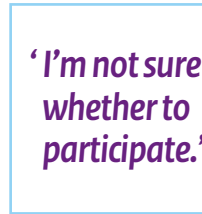
What does the screening cost?

The smear test at the family doctor is free of charge. A smear test or follow-up examination at the gynaecologist is not part of the screening. These costs are covered by your health care insurance. You may be obliged to pay the costs, or a part of them, yourself. This depends on your excess amount and how much of this you have already used. For questions about this, please contact your health care insurer.



**‘Yes,
I’m in.’**

Daniëlle (53) ‘I don’t have any doubts about participating. Actually, I have never had any. Even before I had abnormal cells, I participated in the screening. You only have one life. One body. I think, you should look after it well.’



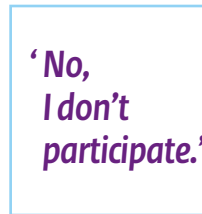
**‘I’m not sure
whether to
participate.’**

Lisa (31) ‘The invitation has been on my desk for a year. It is a privilege, but there is something in me that makes me hesitant. Maybe the fear of something being wrong? The fact that the smear test is uncomfortable, also counts. I really need to cross that threshold.’



**‘Yes,
I’m in.’**

Annerieke (37) ‘I kept putting off making an appointment. I also did not give it priority after my pregnancy. I should have made the time for it sooner. Everything was alright. That’s really good to know.’



**‘No,
I don’t
participate.’**

Judith (46) ‘I have never participated. At first, because I found the smear test uncomfortable. But now, I don’t participate because I estimate my risk as being very low. I don’t smoke, eat healthily. And what if there is something wrong, then what?’



More information

You can use the information in this brochure to make a choice. For more information about the advantages and disadvantages, HPV, cervical cancer, and the screening, please visit www.bevolkingsonderzoekbaarmoederhalskanker.nl.

Do you have any questions, tips, or complaints?

The screening organisations coordinate the screening on behalf of the government.

Do you have any questions, tips, or complaints about the screening? Please contact the screening organisation in your region. You will find the contact details in the invitation letter. The screening organisations have a complaints procedure.

Some of the figures in this brochure are estimations based on screenings in previous years and studies.

Considerable attention has been given to the content of this brochure. All rights reserved.

bevolkingsonderzoek

A screening is a free medical examination for early detection of a disease. The government provides three screening programmes for cancer: screenings for cervical cancer, breast cancer, and bowel cancer. These diseases can be detected at an early stage. Even before someone has complaints.

Information in other languages

You can read this information in English/Turkish/Arabic at:

This information is available in English at:

Bu bilgiyi Türkçe olarak şu internet sitesinde okuyabilirsiniz:

يمكنكم قراءة هذه المعلومات باللغة العربية على الموقع:

www.bevolkingsonderzoekbaarmoederhalskanker.nl

This is a publication of:

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

P.O. Box 1 | 3720 BA Bilthoven

www.rivm.nl

This brochure is the result of joint cooperation with:

bevolkingsonderzoek



Voor vroegge opsporing van kanker



NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING VOOR
OBSTETRIE & GYNAECOLOGIE



September 2016