



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

# Cervical cancer *screening*

Caribbean Netherlands



**The cervical cancer screening is a medical examination free of charge for early detection of cervical cancer and conditions that can lead to cervical cancer.**

## **What is cervical cancer?**

Cervical cancer is a malignant tumor of the cervix. This form of cancer develops very slowly and is caused by a long-lasting infection with a virus: the human papilloma virus (HPV).

## **Why screening for cervical cancer?**

Cervical cancer occurs most frequently in women between the ages of 30 and 60 years. The screening test detects HPV and abnormal cells. Early detection enables treatment and the prevention of later development of cancer. That is why participating in the screening is so beneficial and important.

## **Who can participate?**

Over a period of 3 years, starting in 2022, all women between 30 and 60 years old will be invited for the free screening. Participation is on a voluntary basis.



## 1 THE INVITATION

You will be called to invite you and make an appointment for a swab test at Saba Cares.



## 2 YOUR APPOINTMENT

The screening test is usually performed by the doctor or a nurse. The doctor or nurse will ask you a few questions.

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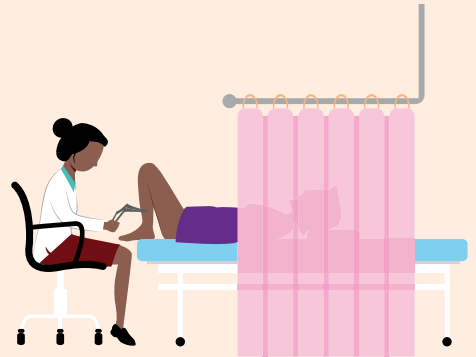
*Please tell the doctor or nurse if you feel uncomfortable about the screening test.*



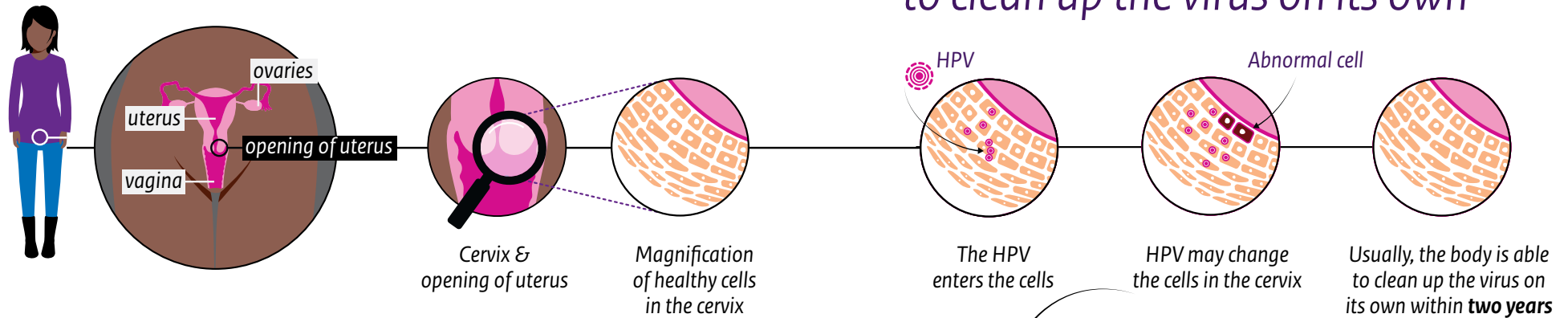
## 3 THE SWAB TEST

A special instrument is used for the test: the speculum. The doctor or nurse uses a small brush to sample some endometrium from the cervix.

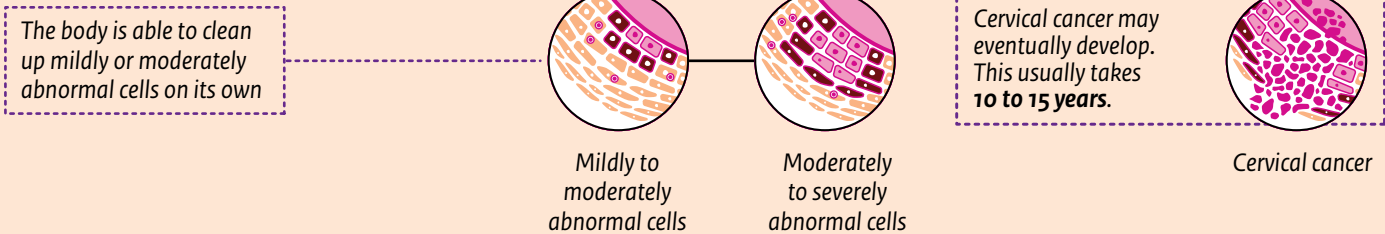
After the test is done, you will receive the result 4 weeks after the screening.



# HPV-infection



Sometimes, the body does not clean up the virus in the cells



HPV occurs frequently. In 8 out of 10 women, the body is able to clear the HPV infection on its own.

# What are possible results?

Saba Cares receives the results within four weeks after the screening. You can call Saba Cares about your results. One of the doctors will call you, if the results require further action.

The following results are possible:

## **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.

## **HPV detected, no abnormal cells**

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

## **HPV and abnormal cells detected**

Further examination by a gynaecologist is necessary. The gynaecologist will decide whether treatment is necessary.

## **Unclear**

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

## Your data

You are invited based on the registration of Saba Cares. If you take part in the cervical cancer screening, you give permission to use your details and the results of your screening for the screening program and any follow-up testing at the hospital.

## What happens with the rest of the material sampled?

Some bodily material is left over after the testing. The laboratory is required to keep this material for a period of three months, to monitor and improve the quality of the screening program. At the end of this period, the material will be destroyed.

## Protection of your personal data and privacy

The administrative system that we use for the screening is well secured. Only those people who need to see your information to perform the screening can use it. Saba Cares and RIVM comply with the legislation that protects your privacy.

With the data from your participation in cervical cancer screening, RIVM can improve the population screening through scientific research. The data from all participants combined will provide valuable information. If your data and/or the bodily material is used for scientific research, we make sure that the researcher does not know from whom the data or bodily material originated. RIVM will only use your data and/or bodily material for (scientific) research, if you give permission to do so. You can withdraw this permission at any time, without telling the reason why.

## More information

For more information about screening or early detection regarding cervical cancer, please visit [www.rivm.nl/bvoCN](http://www.rivm.nl/bvoCN) and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/screeningCN>.

RIVM is conducting the cervical cancer screening program in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Do you have any questions, tips, complaints or compliments about the screening program? Please contact us via [screeningCN@rivm.nl](mailto:screeningCN@rivm.nl).

RIVM has a complaints procedure, which can be found at [www.rivm.nl/en/complaints](http://www.rivm.nl/en/complaints).

This cervical cancer screening program in the Caribbean Netherlands is carried out by



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and the Environment**

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**Committed to** *health and sustainability*