



### Introduction

Cervical cancer is preventable or effectively treatable if detected early. Detection is relatively simple and comprises the analysis of a sample of cells exfoliated within the ectocervix and endocervix (Papanicolaou smear). For many years the Papanicolaou smear has been used to detect cervical precancer and cancer.

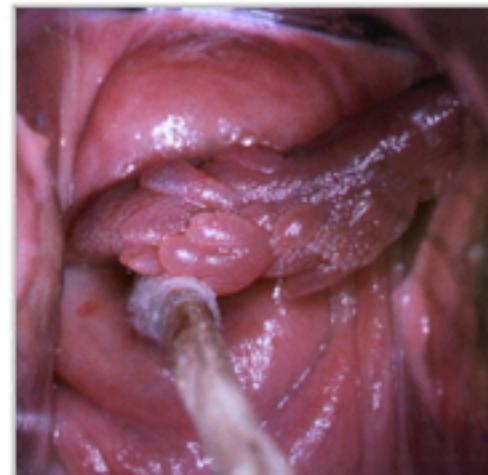
An abnormal cervical smear in women has always been a problem of subsequent management. Three decades ago, many gynecologists would have recommended conization in the management of woman with a positive cytology. Colposcopy has changed the management of cervical precancer, enabling directed biopsy to confirm the diagnosis, exclude the invasion and consequently to allow the use of more conservative treatment techniques. Today, colposcopy is not only the tool to evaluate the abnormal cervical smear, but the integral part of treatment and follow-up, as well.

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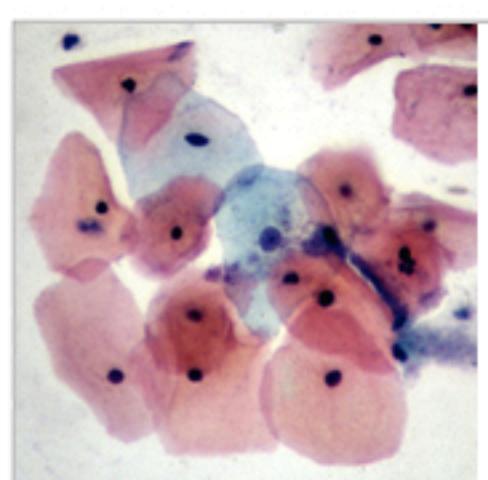
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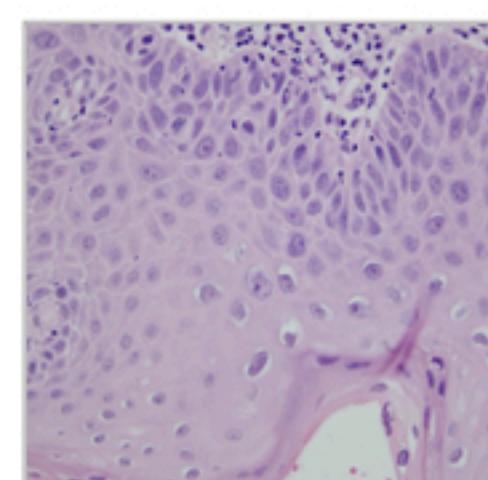
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