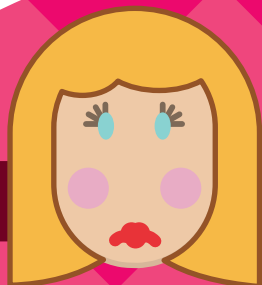


# Cervical Screening - busting the myths

## Myth



## Busted!



**Q1. I'm not eligible for screening**

Cervical screening is a free routine test for all women aged 25 to 64, registered with a GP.

**Q2. It will hurt**

You may experience some mild discomfort but most women don't report feeling pain and the test is over very quickly

**Q3. I have to go to my GP practice for the screening test**

You don't have to go to your GP. You can choose to have the test at a sexual health and contraception service instead. Visit [screeningsaveslives.co.uk](http://screeningsaveslives.co.uk) for more details

**Q4. The test will tell me I have cancer**

The test is not a test for cancer. It aims to prevent cancer by detecting changes which if left untreated could lead to cervical cancer

**Q5. The test will be carried out by a man**

Most tests are carried out by female nurses. You always have the right to request a female when booking your appointment. Just ask!

**Q6. I don't need to go as I'm not sexually active**

You should still attend for your screening test to make sure everything is healthy - you can discuss further with your GP / nurse if concerned

**Q7. I've had the HPV vaccination - I don't need to go**

Even if you have had the vaccination for HPV you should still attend for your test as this doesn't prevent all forms of cervical cancer. Regular screening is the best way to check everything is OK

**Q8. Lesbian and bisexual women don't need to be screened**

If you are in the eligible screening age then you should attend regular screening regardless of your sexuality, race or religion

**Q9. Screening doesn't do any good**

Cervical screening prevents around 4,500 cases of cervical cancer in the UK every year

**Q10. I'm having symptoms... but I should wait until I am invited for screening**

**No - don't wait for your screening invitation.** If you have any of the following symptoms, you should make an appointment straight away to see your GP:

- Bleeding / pain after having sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Bleeding after the menopause



**Cervical screening saves lives**

**Don't be the one missing out...**



Developed by  
**Public Health  
South Tees**

For more information see your GP or visit our website: [screeningsaveslives.co.uk](http://screeningsaveslives.co.uk)