At Your Cervix: It’s Cervical Health Awareness Month!

Week of:
Jan 08, 2016

Multiple sex partners = Greater risk of cervical cancer?

Dear Alice,

How can having multiple sex partners be a risk factor for cervical cancer? What is the difference between having sex with one man one thousand times and sex with one thousand men (not that I'm planning to!) one time?

? Curious

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Bleeding from Pap smear ? Normal?

Dear Alice,

I bled as a result of my last Pap smear. I've never had that happen before and it was a new gynecologist. She said that it was normal. Is that true?

? Confused about blood

Read more

What is dysplasia?

Dear Alice,

Last week I went to my OB-GYN for a checkup. I had not been to the doctor in four years because I had moved and not found the time to look for one. (I know, not a good idea.) Well, the results of my Pap smear came back and my doctor said I had dysplasia. She also said that I did not have any signs of warts when she examined me. After questioning her on the origin of this, since I know little about dysplasia, she told me it was sexually transmitted. Is this true? I have heard that no one really knows where dysplasia comes from. I just want more
information before I go in for my checkup before treatment. By the way, this didn't show up on my Pap smear four years ago, and I have had the same partner this whole time. Thank you!

**Positive for high-risk HPV**

Dear Alice,

I just found out I tested positive for high-risk HPV. My pap smears have been normal for years. I'm 45 years old and have had lots of basal cell skin cancer. I'm scared to death of getting cancers that are caused by HPV. I'm so stressed. What are the odds that I will actually get cancer, now that I am supposedly high-risk? It appears there it nothing I can do at all to prevent this from happening other than keeping up with my visits and pap smears and hoping I beat the odds. I just wonder at how much risk am I when they say I am HIGH-RISK???

**What is colposcopy?**

Dear Alice,

I was just wondering what a colposcopy is? Something irregular turned up on my pap smear. My gynecologist gave me sulfa-based creams, but the irregularity on the cells from my cervix was still there on my next exam. Now, I have to have a colposcopy, and I was wondering what that entails. My doctor said that it was just to see if further action needed to be taken. Could you tell me, if at all possible, what purpose colposcopies serve and what is wrong with the cells? In other words, do you have any idea, from a vague description, what could be wrong? Thanks.
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