

# Female IBD patients: Stay up-to-date on your cervical cancer screening

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Women with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) may be at increased risk of cervical dysplasia and cancer, according to a new study published in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, the official clinical practice journal of the American Gastroenterological Association.

"Our research shows that patients with IBD, specifically Crohn's disease, are at increased risk for developing cervical cancer, even when undergoing the recommended screening," said study author Professor Tine Jess, MD, from Statens Serum Institut in Denmark. "These findings provide an important reminder for IBD patients, and their physicians, to follow the recommended screening guidelines for cervical cancer."

Researchers conducted a population-based, case-controlled study of 27,408 women with IBD in Denmark, followed during a 35-year period. They found a two-way association between IBD, notably Crohn's disease, and neoplastic lesions, or abnormal tissue growth, of the uterine cervix. This observation is not explained by differences in screening activity.

Although patients with both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease—the two most common forms of IBD—had higher odds of being diagnosed with cervical cancer before IBD, only patients with Crohn's disease were at an [increased risk](#) of developing [cervical cancer](#) after the IBD diagnosis.

For patients with Crohn's disease, researchers found a significantly

higher risk of cervical neoplasia in patients diagnosed at a young age and in [patients](#) treated with azathioprine. Treatment with TNF- $\alpha$  antagonists and hormonal contraceptive devices may also influence risk of cervical neoplasia in Crohn's disease.

**More information:** Rungoe, Christine, et al. Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Cervical Neoplasia: A Population-Based Nationwide Cohort Study, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, Volume 13(4): 693-700.e1 [www.cghjournal.org/article/S15 ... \(14\)01081-7/abstract](http://www.cghjournal.org/article/S15... (14)01081-7/abstract)

Provided by American Gastroenterological Association

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