

Low incidence of cervical cancer, CIN3+ for HPV-negative women

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(HealthDay)—Human papillomavirus (HPV)-negative women have low

long-term incidence of cervical cancer and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) grade 3 or worse (CIN3+), which supports an extension of the cervical screening interval beyond five years for certain women, according to a study published online Oct. 4 in *The BMJ*.

Maaïke G. Dijkstra, M.D., from the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, and colleagues conducted a 14-year follow-up of 43,339 women aged 29 to 61 years with a negative HPV and/or negative cytology test. Participants were randomly assigned to HPV and cytology co-testing (intervention) or cytology-only testing (control).

The researchers found that HPV-negative women in the intervention group had cumulative incidence of cervical cancer and CIN3+ of 0.09 and 0.56 percent, respectively, after three rounds of screening, similar to 0.09 and 0.69 percent, respectively, for women with negative cytology in the control group after two rounds of screening. The risk ratios for cervical cancer and CIN3+ were 0.97 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.41 to 2.31) and 0.82 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.62 to 1.09). Compared with younger women, HPV-negative women aged at least 40 years had lower CIN3+ incidence (72.2 percent; 95 percent confidence interval, 61.6 to 79.9 percent). There was no significant correlation between incidence of cervical cancer and age.

"Long term incidences of [cervical cancer](#) and CIN3+ were low among HPV-negative women in this study cohort, and supports an extension of the cervical screening interval beyond five years for women aged 40 years and older," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical industry.

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