

## Pap Smear Screening Guidelines

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists currently recommends pap screening every 2 years for most women ages 21-29, every three years for women 30 and older who have three negative prior screenings, and cessation of cervical cancer screening after hysterectomy for benign disease, or at age 65 or 70, depending on a woman's screening history. Women age 30 or older may be tested with cervical cytology (pap) alone or with cytology and human papillomavirus (HPV) testing ("co-testing").

In March 2012, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and a multidisciplinary partnership among the American Cancer Society/American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology/American Society for Clinical Pathology (ACS/ASCCP/ASCP) recommended less frequent cervical cancer screening: cytology every 3 years for women ages 21-29, and either cytology every 3 years, or cytology/HPV co-testing every 5 years for women ages 30-65. Both groups recommended cessation of screening after hysterectomy for benign disease in women without a history of high-grade cervical dysplasia.

The USPSTF recommendations were published in the March 15, 2012 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine* and are available at the USPSTF website (<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspscerv.htm>).

The ACS/ASCCP/ASCP recommendations were published in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, the *Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease*, and the *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*. As published by ACS, the guidelines are available at *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* website ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.3322/\(ISSN\)1542-4863](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.3322/(ISSN)1542-4863)).

ACOG is reviewing these new recommendations and the data from which the recommendations were derived to determine whether current OB/GYN practice guidelines should be modified. For more information, please visit the ACOG website ([http://www.acog.org/About\\_ACOG/Announcements/New\\_Cervical\\_Cancer\\_Screening\\_Recommendations](http://www.acog.org/About_ACOG/Announcements/New_Cervical_Cancer_Screening_Recommendations)).

*ACS-ASCCP-ASCP Screening Guidelines for the Prevention and Early Detection of Cervical Cancer*  
(<http://journals.lww.com/jlgttd/PublishingImages/ASCCP%20Guidelines.pdf>)