



### Where can I get a Pap Smear?

KSU Student Health Services offers gynecological exams at House 52.

Their contact information is:

Appointment Clinic at House 52  
1000 Chastain Road, House #52  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Tel (470) 578-6644

[studenthealthsvc@kennesaw.edu](mailto:studenthealthsvc@kennesaw.edu)

Hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri - 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,

Wed - 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m



Student Center, Room 164  
Kennesaw Campus  
[glbtqi@kennesaw.edu](mailto:glbtqi@kennesaw.edu)  
[www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/glbtqi](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/glbtqi)  
470-578-7926



*Sexually  
Active?*

**There's a  
Pap for  
That...**



*A Sexual Health  
Guide for Women who  
have Sex with Women*



## The Truth about Pap Smears and Women who sleep with Women

**A Pap test (or Pap smear)** checks the cervix for abnormal cell changes. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus (womb), which opens into the vagina. Cell changes can develop on the cervix that, if not detected, can lead to cervical cancer. Cervical cancer can almost always be prevented, and having regular Pap tests is the key.

### How is a Pap Test Done?

A health care provider uses an instrument called a speculum that goes inside the vagina and opens, so the cervix can be seen. A small stick or brush is used to take cell samples from around, and inside, the cervix. The sample is sent to a lab where it is examined under a microscope to see if any abnormal cells are present.

### Is a Pap test the same as a pelvic exam?

No, although a Pap test may be done as part of a pelvic exam. During a pelvic exam, a health care provider feels the reproductive organs (cervix, uterus, vagina, ovaries, and fallopian tubes) to check their shape and size.

**Myth:** Lesbians are not at risk of cervical cancer because they don't have sex with men.

**Fact:** **Cervical cancer is usually caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV) which is commonly spread through genital skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity. This includes female-to-female sex. Also, some lesbians may have either had sex with men at some time in their lives, currently have sex with men or have partners who have had sex with men and women.**

**Myth:** Lesbians cannot pass HPV to each other.

**Fact:** **Woman to woman transmission of HPV can occur, either through direct genital contact, cuts, abrasions or through shared use of sexual toys.**

**Myth:** Rates of cervical abnormalities for lesbians are less than in heterosexual women.

**Fact:** Rates of cervical abnormalities for lesbians are similar to heterosexual women. Abnormalities have been found by Pap smears, even in women who reported no sexual history with men. However, lesbians are less likely to have regular Pap smears than other women.

### How often should I have a Pap Test?

This is not the same for everyone, and depends on things like a woman's age, health history, recent Pap test results, and whether or not she has HPV. Ask your health care provider how often you should have a Pap test. Most women can have a Pap test every two years. After age 30, women who have three consecutive, normal Pap tests can often go three years between their Pap tests, but those decisions should be made after consulting with her health care provider.

### How should I prepare for a Pap Test?

1. Do not use vaginal douches for at least 3 days prior to your appointment.
2. Refrain from sexual intercourse for 48 hours prior to your appointment.
3. Do not use tampons, birth control foams or jellies for 48 hours prior to your appointment.
4. Schedule your appointment about one or two weeks after you expect your period. If your period starts, call your provider to reschedule.