

Smear tests for women under 25

In response to the media debate about lowering the age of smear tests we would like to offer ladies some advice.

A smear test is a test for women who are completely well, who have no worrying symptoms. It will pick up changes to the cervix very early so this can be treated.

Women are not currently offered a smear test before age 24.5 years because cervical cancer is rare in this age group. Also, early changes in this age group often go away by themselves and unnecessary treatment can cause problems in future pregnancies.

This issue highlights the importance for patients to attend for their smear when they are invited.

Women who ARE having symptoms, i.e. bleeding after sex, unexplained pelvic pain, or irregular periods should ring up and discuss their symptoms with a doctor. They will be offered an examination REGARDLESS of their age, and will then be referred on, for further investigation at the hospital if needed.

We will always take your symptoms and concerns seriously.

Your Doctors and Healthcare team at Wingate Medical Centre