

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON HEALTH CENTER**

**-HEALTHBERRY-**

[www.uh.edu/admin/hc](http://www.uh.edu/admin/hc)

**PAP SMEAR ACCURACY**

Women can help improve the accuracy of a Pap test, which is a screening test for cervical cancer. The best time to schedule the test is one or two weeks after a menstrual period and after any vaginal infection has been cured. In the 48 hours before the test, a woman should not have sexual intercourse or put anything in the vagina, including tampons, douches, diaphragm, cream, or foam.

If an abnormality is found on the Pap test, follow-up care will depend on its extent. When the test shows some abnormal cell changes of undermined significant "ACUS", any infection should be diagnosed and treated then the pap repeated in 3 months.

Low-grade changes in the cells may warrant a colposcopy, in which the cervix is examined through a high power microscope. More advanced changes, suggesting progress toward cancer, require colposcopy and probably a biopsy and treatment. This should not be delayed for more than a few weeks.

We at the Health Center will be happy to help you.



**Healthfully yours,**

**Dr. Healthberry**

---

For questions or comments you can;

Write "Healthberry" at  
University Health Center  
100 UH Health Center  
Houston, Texas 77204-3019

E-Mail "[Healthberry](mailto:Healthberry)" at [JMGray2@central.uh.edu](mailto:JMGray2@central.uh.edu)  
Fax "Healthberry" at (713)743-5164.