

PATIENT RESOURCES

Atypical Glandular Cells (AGC)

What is atypical glandular cells (AGC)?

Atypical glandular cells (AGC) is the name given to abnormal appearing glandular cells on a cervical cytology test (Pap). Glandular cells line the opening in the cervix. AGC is a relatively uncommon result, although it always requires further evaluation. AGC can be caused by benign conditions, such as cervical polyps, or more serious conditions, such as cancer of the cervix, uterine lining (endometrium), ovary, or fallopian tube. Women with AGC usually require HPV-testing, colposcopy, a biopsy of the inner cervix (endocervical curettage or ECC) during colposcopy, and a biopsy of the endometrium (EMB). This is because 10 to 40 percent of women with atypical glandular cells have high-grade dysplasia (abnormal changes that could lead to cancer) or worse.