

PATIENT RESOURCES

Adenocarcinoma-in-situ (AIS)

What is adenocarcinoma-in-situ (AIS)?

Adenocarcinoma-in-situ (AIS) is a pre-cancer of the cervix. AIS involves the glandular cells that are located on the inside of the cervix.

What causes AIS?

AIS is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), usually HPV type 16 or 18. Infection with HPV can be found when an HPV test is done as part of your cervical cancer screening. HPV 16 and 18 can be prevented by HPV vaccination, but vaccination will not cure the infection if you already have it.

How is AIS diagnosed?

If your Pap test or HPV test are abnormal, you will be evaluated with a procedure called a colposcopy, which allows your provider to get a close-up look at your cervix, vagina and vulva using a lighted, magnifying instrument called a colposcope. Your provider will take small tissue samples (biopsies) of the cervix, which will be sent to the laboratory for analysis.

What is the treatment for AIS?

If AIS is found, you will need to have a procedure to remove the pre-cancerous cells and to determine whether invasive cancer is present. This procedure may be called LEEP, LLETZ, cone biopsy, cold knife cone biopsy, or laser cone biopsy. Usually this procedure can be done in the office or as a same day surgery procedure, and involves removing a small portion of the cervix where the AIS was found.

What happens after this procedure depends on whether you still want to have more children. If you are done having children, your doctor will usually recommend that you have a hysterectomy to remove the uterus to make sure you do not develop cancer in the future. If you do still want more children, you will be followed closely to make sure that all the disease is gone, and it does not come back.