

## A Study on Cervical Pap Smear Examination in Patient Living with HIV.

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### ABSTRACT:

**Background:** Decline in morbidity & mortality due to cervical cancer in developed countries can be mainly attributed to early detection of precancerous & cancerous lesions due to extensive screening programme of cervical Pap smear examination. HPV infection is a known etiological agent for cervical cancer. HIV infected women are at higher risk of contracting HPV infection due to immune compromised status. **Objective:** Present study has been undertaken mainly to detect precancerous & cancerous lesions as well as inflammatory lesions in female patients living with HIV & to emphasize the fact that Pap smear examination should be established as a part of routine protocol for examination in these women. **Methods:** The study was carried out on 369 HIV infected females attending Integrated Counselling & Testing Centre of government institute. As controls, 142 females (not falling under high risk category), attending the Obstetrics & Gynaecology OPD with various gynaecological complaints were taken & results were compared. **Results:** Squamous cell abnormalities were found about four times high as compared to control group. High incidences of squamous cell abnormalities were noted in patients with high parity (parity three or more). **Conclusion:** Regular gynaecological examination including Pap smear examinations is highly recommended for HIV infected females. Pap smear examination is a simple, cheap, safe & practical diagnostic tool for early detection of cervical cancer in high risk population.

**Key Words:** HIV, Pap smear, Patient Living with HIV (PLWH)

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