

GYNAECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS UPDATE

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Reference

www.
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"Update"
issues 36 & 56
Answers
1/b-2/c-3/c
4/b-5/c-6/c

Cervical Screening Questions and Answers

The incidence of cervical cancer in England and Wales fell by 42%. This fall is related to the cervical screening programme and the rapid increase in coverage of the programme that occurred from 1989 onwards. The initial age for screening and the frequency are shown in the table. The following are few questions on different clinical situations and their associated answers. Please review the "Update" issues 36, 56 & 59 as well

Age group (years)	Frequency of screening
25	First invitation
25-49	Three yearly
50-64	Five yearly

1- A **67 year old woman** comes to see you. She asks you about cervical screening but you explain that she is outside the age range for screening. However, she has never had a cervical screening test because she was somehow missed out. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- She should not have a cervical screening test
- She should have a cervical screening test if she wants to, after having an informed discussion

2- A 35 year old woman is two months **pregnant**. She is called for a cervical screening test. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- You should not carry out cervical smear tests on pregnant women
- You should not carry out liquid based cytology on pregnant women
- Colposcopy is safe in pregnant women

3- A 36 year old woman comes to see you because she has just been called for a cervical screening test. She has a mild **learning disability**. She attends with her carer. She has lived in residential care since she was 17. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- Women with a learning disability will not be able to cooperate with cervical screening
- Cervical screening is likely to make her unduly anxious
- Many women with learning disabilities are able to make an informed choice about whether to have cervical screening
- It is unlikely that she has ever been sexually active and so cervical screening is inappropriate

4- A 48 year old woman receives an appointment for a cervical screening test. She is new to the area and tells you she had cervical cancer in the past. She is unsure what treatment she had but is certain she had **radiotherapy** for the cancer. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- She should still have a smear test or liquid based cytology
- She is unsuitable for a smear test or liquid based cytology

5- A 28 year old woman is invited for cervical screening. When she attends she tells you she **has never been sexually active** with a man. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- She should be completely withdrawn from the screening programme
- Her chance of having cervical cancer is moderate
- She may choose to decline the invitation for screening on this occasion

6- Which one of the following statements about the **human papilloma virus** is correct?

- Most women infected with the virus go on to develop cervical cancer
- Women with new changes to their cervix are likely to have been infected with the virus in the last year
- Most women will naturally expel the human papilloma virus