# Do our Gynaecologists follow post-hysterectomy vaginal vault sampling guidance from NHSCSP?

## In terms of Who? What? When?

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### Objective

We retrospectively audited post-hysterectomy vaginal vault sampling practice and adherence to NHSCSP guidelines.

### Method:

Patients who underwent a hysterectomy in JCUH

June 2022- Dec 2022

were identified from Histology IT database and cross referenced with the MCNS/CSAS IT databases.

- Total of 205 cases identified
- 5 excluded

We sub-analysed by groups, derived from NHSCSP guidelines[1], by hysterectomy histopathological result and pre-operative cervical screening "smear" history.

**Results:** 200 patients ; age range of 25–87 years ; 14% showed CIN or cervical malignancy.

Those of screening age (140/200) were sub-analysed in Table 1, as summarised in Figures 1&2, regarding vaginal sampling at 6 months post-hysterectomy.

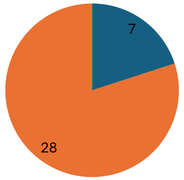


***Figure 1: Vaginal Smear Compliance (Eligible patients n=35)***

Only 20% ( n=7/35) of eligible women received a 6m vaginal smear as per NHSCSP guideline recommendations.

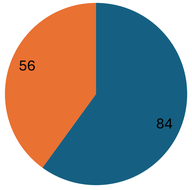


***Figure 2: Incorrect Screening Recall Status (n=140)***

60% ( n=84/140) of women of screening age remained incorrectly on the CSAS cervical screening recall list, despite hysterectomy.

**Table 1: Vault sampling in patients of screening age, sub-analysed based on NHSCSP criteria**

| Sub-groups by NHSCSP Criteria | No. | Correct Action Taken? | Incorrectly on Recall with CSAS? |
|---|---|---|---|
| No CIN on hysterectomy specimen | 98 | 100% (98/98) correctly managed - none required vaginal vault smear | 70% |
| No CIN on hysterectomy specimen + out-of-date smear | 20 | 5% (1/20) correctly had a vaginal smear | 40% |
| No CIN +on non-routine smear recall | 11 | 18% (2/11) correctly had vaginal smear | 27% |
| CIN on hysterectomy specimen | 4 | 100% (4/4) correctly had vaginal smear | 25% |
| Subtotal hysterectomy | 2 | 100% (2/2) correctly remain on routine cervical screening recall | 0% |
| Cervical cancer on simple hysterectomy specimen | 1 | 100% (1/1) correctly had vaginal smear | 100% |
| Cervical cancer treated with radical hysterectomy | 4 | 100% (4/4) correctly managed none required a vaginal smear (according to local cancer guidelines) | 50% |
| **Total** | 140 | 20% (n=7/35 eligible patients) correctly had vaginal smear | 60% (n= 84/140) incorrectly on recall |

### Conclusions: Who? What? When?

- NHSCSP guideline aims at identifying hysterectomised women who are potentially at risk of developing vaginal cancer.
- "Responsibility for implementing follow-up policies for these women, rests with the *treating Gynaecologist*"[1].
- **It is noted that only 20% (n=7/53) of women had the required vaginal smear performed at 6 months post-op** and only 40% (n=56/140) were correctly "ceased" from cervical screening.
- Gynaecology surgeons appear to be unaware or unclear about NHSCSP Guidance.
- We recommend that the NHSCSP guidance is simplified and cascaded to all RCOG members.

Reference [1] NHSCSP Guidelines updated Sep 2024