



# DELVIN

## PATHOLOGY LAB

### PAP SMEAR SCREENING FOR CERVIX CANCER IN WOMEN

Commonly known as the “Pap Test”, it is a useful test to detect precancerous stage of cervical carcinoma. Cervical cancer or cancer of the uterine cervix is unfortunately the second most common malignancy in women in India, even though there is a good test to detect it much before the cancer actually develops and reaches an irreversible stage.

Women who must definitely undertake this test include those who started having sex early, multiple sexual partners, low immunity due to smoking or being overweight. The cause of cervical cancer is persistent human papilloma virus, HPV infection which is transmitted from one person to another during sex.

Your first Pap Test should be at age 30, and if found normal, repeat after 5 – 7 years. If you have not had sex, you have a good option of preventing HPV infection by a vaccine available with gynaecologists.