What if My Test Results Are Abnormal?
An abnormal Pap test result does not necessarily mean something serious. When found early, most of the problems that cause an abnormal result can be treated. They are often caused by an inflammation or an infection in your cervix or vagina. If abnormal results are obtained, your doctor can follow up immediately with whatever treatment is best for you. Ask your doctor or nurse to explain the results and next steps.

Why Should I Ask for a ThinPrep Pap Test?
The ThinPrep Pap Test is the first real improvement to the conventional Pap smear in 50 years. Through improved sample preparation resulting in fewer recalls, increased disease detection allowing greater confidence in diagnosis and the ability to run further test as required the ThinPrep Pap Test provides you with a new level of assurance in the accuracy of your results. You should consider your lifestyle, sexual activity, if you smoke, proximity to your menstrual cycle or if you have had any previous incidence of cervical abnormalities and discuss this with your doctor.

Can I be tested for HPV?
Yes, there are tests available but currently they would be at your own expense unless you are under treatment for a pre-existing condition of the cervix.1

If your doctor recommends an HPV test with your Pap test, both can be taken from your ThinPrep Pap test sample. However, for infections that persist, Pap testing and HPV testing when recommended are the surest method of detection.

1 What is Cervical Cancer?
Cervical cancer is a cancer of the cervix, the lower, narrow portion of the uterus that joins with the vaginal canal. It is the second-leading cause of cancer among women worldwide. However, cervical cancer is highly preventable due in large part to routine Pap testing. The majority of cervical cancers are linked to human papillomavirus (HPV), but other risk factors may also contribute.

2 What is HPV?
HPV, or Human Papilomavirus is a group of over 100 virus types that are transmitted by skin-to-skin contact. Most strains of HPV will clear on their own. However, a few “high-risk” strains, if persistent, may develop into cervical cancer, although this is rare. About 80% of sexually active women have contracted at least one strain of genital HPV by 50.¹

3 What is a Pap smear or Cervical smear?
The Pap smear or Pap test is a preventative screening test that has been successful at finding signs of cervical cancer or cells that may turn into cancer cells in the future. It was introduced over 50 years ago and has been the single greatest contributor to the overall decline in cervical cancer.

4 Why Should I have a Pap Test?
Regular Pap tests help prevent cancer of the cervix. You can have cell changes in your cervix without experiencing any symptoms or pain. If these are not treated, even small changes in cells can become serious over time.

5 Who Should Have a Pap Test?
All women who have ever been sexually active need to have regular Pap tests. Even if you are not sexually active now or no longer have periods, you still need to have regular Pap tests.

6 I’ve had the vaccine, do I still need a Pap test?
Yes. Regular Pap tests remain critically important as the HPV vaccine does not protect against all types of cancer-causing HPV and the Pap test remains the only way to check for abnormal cells on the cervix.

7 How Is the Pap Smear Done?
The sample taker, typically a doctor or a nurse, gently scrapes cells from your uterine cervix. With the conventional Pap method, these cells are smeared directly onto a glass slide and sent to a laboratory for microscopic review.

8 Is There Room for Improvement for the Pap Smear?
Yes! The smearing action can cause uneven layering, crowding and overlapping of cells, making interpretation difficult. In addition, studies have demonstrated that the majority of cell material may not transfer to the slide and may actually be discarded with the sampling device.

9 How Is the ThinPrep® Pap Test Different?
The cells are collected in the same way as the conventional smear. However, the cells are rinsed into a vial filled with a preservative solution. The vial is then sent to a laboratory where it is processed and a representative thin layer of cells is placed on the slide for microscopic review. The ThinPrep process improves the quality of the sample, preparing a slide that is more appropriate for diagnostic review.

10 Is There Proof that the ThinPrep Pap Test is More Effective?
The ThinPrep Pap Test was developed to address many of the pitfalls associated with the conventional Pap smear. Studies worldwide have proven that the ThinPrep Pap Test is more accurate than the conventional Pap smear.