

Dear madam,

The prevention of cervical cancer is changing thanks to the diffusion of the vaccine against the HPV virus (Human Papilloma Virus).

Until now, all women were invited to take the first screening test at the age of 25. Instead, the change foresees that women vaccinated with two doses against HPV before the age of 15 are invited to take the first screening test at the age of 30. In fact, scientific research has shown that this group of women, thanks to the HPV vaccine, has a very low risk of developing cervical cancer before the age of 30.

Since you have been vaccinated, at the age of 30 you will receive a letter of invitation to take an HPV test, which has proven to be, from this age, the most effective test for the prevention and early diagnosis of cervical cancer.

Doing the screening test before the age of 30 is not useful in vaccinated women because in rare cases it can lead to the identification of lesions which often regress spontaneously at your young age. In fact, HPV is a virus that causes a very frequent infection, which most people catch at least once in their life and which in most cases resolves on its own, especially in young women like yourself.

However, we remind you that in order to have high protection from cancer it is important to participate in screening starting from the age of 30, by responding to the invitation to take the HPV test. We inform you that before sending you this communication, we checked your vaccination status by consulting the regional vaccination registry.

If you wish to have more information you can:

- Contact the screening centre by calling 800300315
Or by email at scp@ausl.mo.it
- Read *100 Questions about HPV* at the link
https://gisci.it/documenti/documenti_gisci/100DomandeHPV_giugno2022.pdf
- Visit the regional website
<https://salute.regione.emilia-romagna.it/screening>

Thank you for your attention and best wishes,

THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE

