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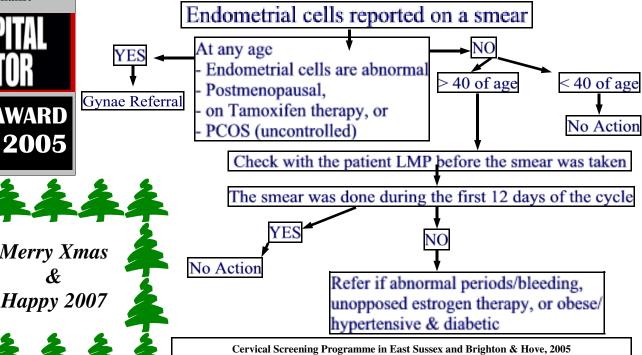
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**AWARD** 2005

## The Significance of the presence of Endometrial Cells in a Cervical smear

- Endometrial cells are a **normal component of cervical smears up to the first 12** days of the menstrual cycle.
- Endometrial cells of normal morphology in cervical smears outside the first 12 days of the cycle may be due to
  - Common causes: IUCD, oral contraceptive pill (mid-cycle and often in association with break through bleeding) and postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy (HRT)
  - Abnormal endometrium (hyperplasia, premalignat or malignant conditions)
- Management of **normal** endometrial cells shed at inappropriate times of the cycle
  - may be disregarded in women under 40 years of age because neoplastic diseases of the endometrium are very rare in this age group.
  - In women of 40 years and over. The decision whether to refer the woman for further investigation is a **clinical one**.
  - Postmenopausal women, patients on tamoxifen or PCOS patients with infrequent or no periods should be referred for assessment due to the associated risk of abnormal endometrium.
- Management of abnormal (dvskarvotic) endometrial cells Patients should always be investigated regardless of the age of the woman. In most cases, reports will include a recommended course of action.



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