

IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention
Cervical cancer screening, Volume 18 (2022)

EVALUATIONS OF SCREENING METHODS

Screening method	Evaluation ^a	
	Reduction in cervical cancer mortality	Reduction in cervical cancer incidence
Conventional cytology	Group A	Group A
Liquid-based cytology	Group A	Group A
HPV nucleic acid testing	Group A	Group A
Visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA)	Group A	Group B
Cytology based on Romanowsky–Giemsa staining	Group C	Group C

HPV, human papillomavirus.

^a Group A: The cancer screening method is established to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer or is established to reduce mortality from cervical cancer.

Group B: The cancer screening method may reduce the incidence of cervical cancer or may reduce mortality from cervical cancer.

Group C: The cancer screening method is not classifiable as to its capacity to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer or to reduce mortality from cervical cancer.

COMPARISONS OF SCREENING METHODS

Methods compared	Benefit–harm balance
HPV DNA testing versus VIA	HPV DNA testing >> VIA
HPV DNA testing versus cytology	HPV DNA testing > Cytology
HPV DNA testing alone versus co-testing	HPV DNA testing ≥ Co-testing

HPV, human papillomavirus; VIA, visual inspection with acetic acid.