



Title	The Use of Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) and Conventional Pap Smear (CPS) for Cervical Cancer Screening in Denmark – A Health Technology Assessment
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Aim

To clarify the evidence on Pap smear compared with liquid-based cytology and the status of cervical screening activities in Denmark, and to provide decision support for counties and hospitals.

Conclusions and results

In Danish pathology departments, the conventional Pap smear (CPS) has been used in systematic cervical cancer screening to prepare cell samples from the uterine cervix. In recent years, liquid based cytology (LBC) has gained ground as an alternative method, but its advantages have been disputed. In 2005, only a few Danish counties had implemented LBC, while most remained undecided. Previous reviews of the evidence on LBC have presented conflicting results.

No scientific basis was found to suggest any difference in clinical or economic effects between LBC and conventional CPS. However, other aspects of the screening program (eg, increase in participation, extension of the age limit, improvement in national homogeneity, and coordination of management) were found to be effective approaches for achieving clinical and health economic gains.

Recommendations

Instead of spending limited resources to change laboratory techniques, steps should be taken to optimize the screening program in terms of improving the coverage and management of Danish screening activities, nationally and regionally. The initial steps are being prepared.

Methods

The health technology assessment (HTA) included systematic literature-reviews on clinical effectiveness, economic modeling, evaluations of patient-related consequences, and organizational aspects based on data collected from national registers, local investigations, and by survey.

Further research/reviews required

Findings and recommendations of the HTA will be followed up by national and regional planning initiatives to optimize the screening program for cervical cancer.