



CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING FOR HONG KONG'S FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS

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(1) INTRODUCTION

Domestic Helpers are core supporters for many families in Hong Kong. They contribute significantly to Hong Kong's society and economic development. Majority of the domestic helpers are women of child bearing age, they are vulnerable to development of cervical cancer. Their health is important but there is no dedicated preventive health service for them. Cervical cancer is preventable disease. However domestic helpers come from less developed countries and may not have had the benefit of regular screening and many are less educated thus may not know about their risk and preventative methods.

The United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service started a "Women's health Project for our domestic helpers" in 2017, to provide community based accessible cervical cancer screening service for domestic helpers.

(2) OBJECTIVES

1. To enable early diagnosis of cervical cancer and pre-cancerous changes by screening
2. Timely and effective medical intervention for early cervical cancer
3. Health education for cancer prevention

(3) METHODS

1. Health promotion in collaboration with organization serving domestic helpers
2. Multilingual health promotional materials
3. Pap smear screening for Domestic helper on Sundays.

(4) RESULTS

From 1st April 2017-31st March 2019, cervical cancer screening was provided for 594 foreign domestic helpers, aged between 18 to 59 yrs old. Amongst them 494 (85%) , did pap smear for the first time, of which 21% had infection and 9% had cellular abnormality .

Table 3 -Epithelial cell abnormality rate (N =599)

Epithelial cell abnormality	ASCUS (Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance)	LSIL (Low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion)	HSIL (High grade squamous intraepithelial lesion)	ASCH(Atypical Squamous Cells, Cannot Rule Out High-Grade Squamous Intra-epithelial Lesion)	Atypical endocardial cells favor neoplastic	Total abnormal
No. of cases	35 (6%)	12 (2%)	3 (0.5%)	1(0.2%)	1(0.2%)	52 (9%)

(5) CONCLUSION

The foreign domestic helpers are vulnerable group of women. With such high infection rate and cellular abnormality, there is an utmost need to streamline health promotion on women's health and provide much needed cervical cancer screening service to this group of women. Without such interventions in long run it will increase burden to the Hong Kong public healthcare system.

Photo: Educational leaflets in English and Bahasa

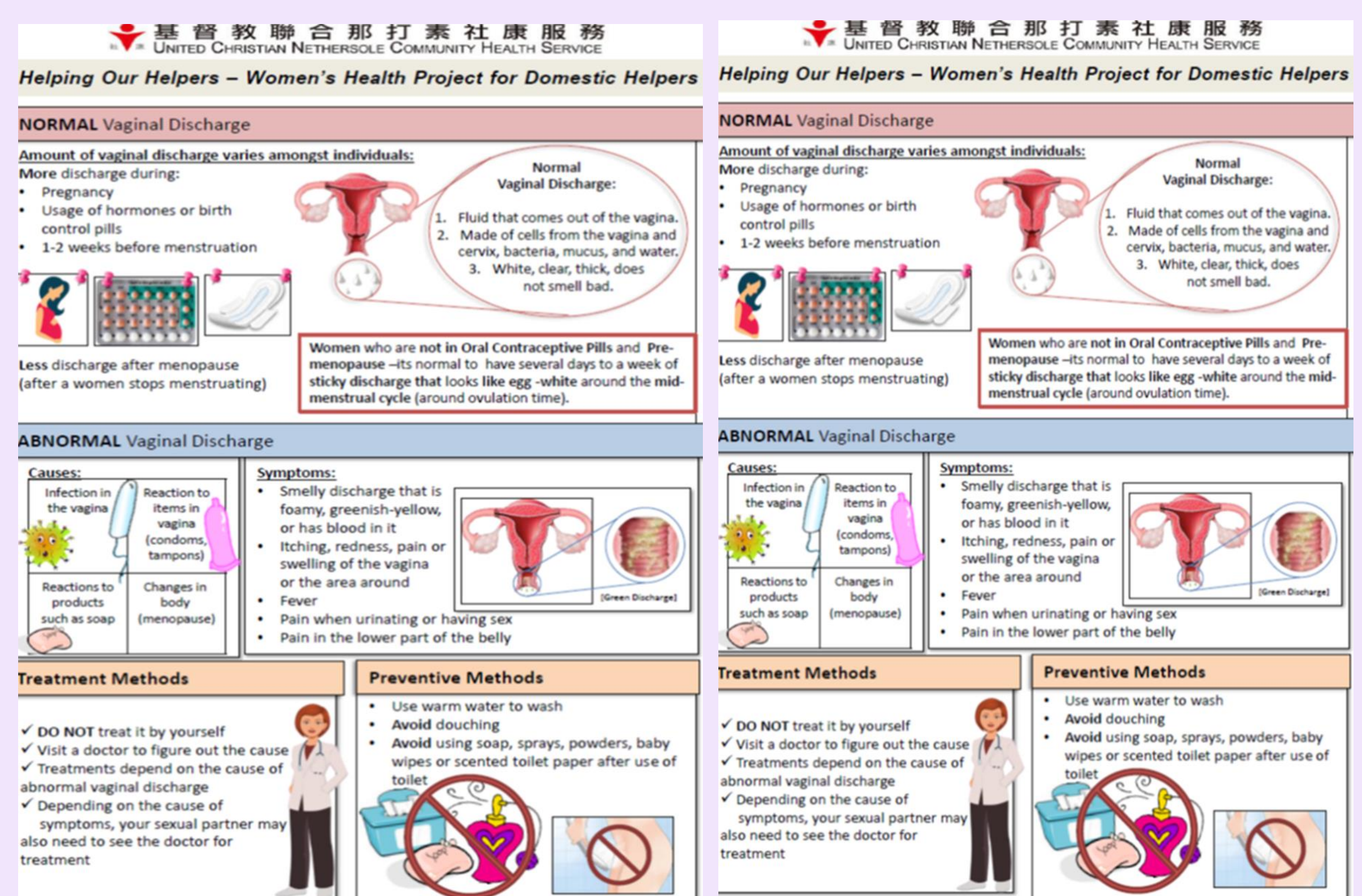


Table 1: No of Pap smear and follow up procedures

Procedures	No of cases
1 Pap smear screening	599
2 PAP needing medical follow up and HPV DNA	38
3 Colposcopy of those HPV DNA positive	10

Table 2 -Infection rate (N=599)

Infection	Trichomonas	Actinomyces	Monilia	Bacterial vaginosis	Total infection
No. of cases	10 (2%)	3(0.5%)	69(11.5%)	41(7%)	123 (21%)

Figure 1

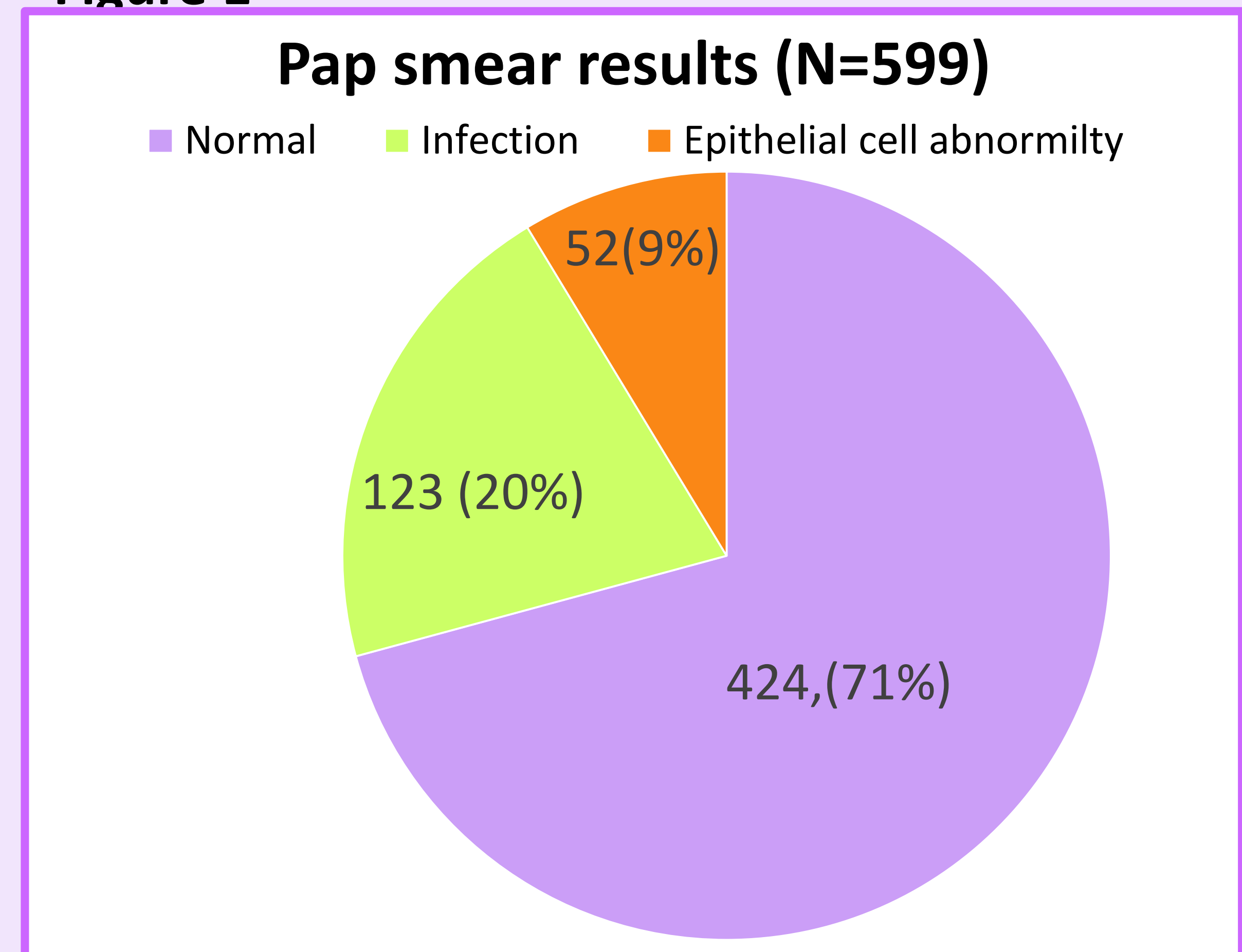


Photo glimpse : Community based health education and promotion of cervical cancer and uptake of pap smear uptake

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