



Anal Alphabet

Your anal Pap smear report will contain one of the following classifications:

August 1, 2000 By [Lark Lands, PhD](#)

Normal: just what you'd like to see

<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Inflammation: could have any number of causes and not a big reason for concern

ASCUS: atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance—indicating detection of a few abnormal cells, possibly due to HPV or other infections; not hugely alarming but in need of follow-up

LSIL: low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion; more severe changes in cells than

ASCUS; absolutely requires follow-up, although less alarming than HSIL

HSIL: high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion; more severe changes in cells than LSIL; again, follow-up is essential

AIN: anal intraepithelial neoplasia; can be graded as: 1, the least serious and similar to

LSIL; 2, more serious and akin to HSIL; or 3, the most serious; 2 and 3 indicate localized precancerous changes.

Joel Palefsky, MD, and Stephen Goldstone, MD, recommend high-resolution anoscopy for ASCUS, LSIL or HSIL, combined with biopsies of suspicious tissue, the results of which will determine treatment. (For more information on anal Paps, see "[Smear Campaign](#)," POZ, August 1999.)
