

## Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA): Is it the Hope for Prevention of Cancer Cervix in Egypt?

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### Background

In Egypt, cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer in women after breast cancer. Cervical cytology is presently considered to be the only test known to reduce cervical cancer incidence in organized screening programs in developed countries. However, an organized screening program is difficult to implement in developing countries where resources are scarce. Visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), as an alternative to cervical cytology, is of particular interest to developing countries because it is inexpensive, only requires supplies usually locally obtainable, and can be competently performed by non-physicians with proper training.

### Objective

To evaluate VIA as a feasible screening program in our locality. To explain our experience regarding this simple screening method in Egypt.

### Methods

1550 patients of various complaints were subjected to cytological examination of the cervix, examination of the cervix by VIA (visual screening with 5% acetic acid), Colposcopic examination and biopsy under colposcopic guidance for histopathological examination.

### Results

On cytological examination; 1240 cases with no CIN, 177 cases with CIN1 (LSIL) and 100 cases with CIN2-3 (HSIL). On (VIA) we found about 199 VIA positive cases and 1351 VIA negative cases. With Histopathology which is the final diagnosis and is our reference diagnosis our result is: 57 cases are LSIL and 70 cases are HSIL. The sensitivity of cytological examination is 58.13% and its specificity is 93.7% with positive and negative predictive values 60.97 and 91.6 respectively.

### Conclusion

In resource restricted countries like Egypt, VIA may find a place as a low technology and low cost method of screening for cancer cervix.