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BOOK REVIEW

Preventing Cervical Cancer. What Every Woman Should Know. A Szarewski. St Albans, UK: Altman Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 1-86036-042-8. Price: £10.95. Pages: 159 (paperback)

This slim, friendly-looking volume guides the reader from basic anatomy through abnormal smears to colposcopy assessment and treatment. Along the way it takes in the aetiology of cervical cancer, screening controversies and looks to future prospects for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination.

As you would expect, Szarewski has given us thorough, balanced and thoughtful coverage of a difficult area. The text is clear and is supported

by excellent illustrations throughout. There are also useful suggestions for further reading and for organisations offering information and support.

The jacket suggests the book would be useful for "... every woman, her partner and her doctor". Although this book is principally aimed at the laywoman, many doctors would indeed learn a lot from it too. It could be read straight through, but the chapters also stand alone, and with a good index it could be used for reference too.

I asked a 21-year-old telesales operator for her opinion, after I had treated her for CIN3. She loved this book, finding it extremely helpful and well written in a relaxed style with useful diagrams. She wished she had read it before

coming to the colposcopy clinic.

If I had one quibble it was on the subject of *Trichomonas* as a possible incidental finding on smear reports; the text suggests "... it is just possible to catch it from swimming pools or lavatory seats". Whatever the truth of this statement, I do not think it a useful point in a book of this kind!

Overall this is an excellent resource, which I look forward to sharing with my knowledge-hungry patients.

Reviewed by **Kate Weaver**, MBChB, MFFP
Staff Grade in Reproductive Health Care and
Colposcopist, Edinburgh, UK

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