

## HPV testing: an important weapon in the fight against cervical cancer

*FDA-approved DNAwithPAP™ offered at DCL*

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High-risk types of the human papillomavirus (HPV) have been shown to cause virtually all cases of cervical cancer.

While it is true that regular use of the Pap test has led to a significant decline in the number of American women who die from cervical cancer, some women have been diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer after multiple, normal Pap tests.

When HPV testing is conducted along with the Pap, however, in women age 30 and older (those who are most at risk from HPV infection) the cause of high-grade cervical disease and cancer is detected with sensitivity as high as 100 percent<sup>1</sup>.

Persistent HPV infections – more commonly found in women age 30 or older – can lead to cervical cancer if pre-cancerous cell changes caused by HPV are not detected and treated early. In women under 30 the virus usually disappears on its own in a few months without causing any problems.

DCL Medical Laboratories recognizes the importance of providing a highly sensitive, easy-to-use method of testing for HPV. The Digene DNAwithPap™ Test, available at DCL, is the only FDA-approved test for high-risk types of HPV.

“HPV testing is emerging as a standard of care for cervical cancer screening,” said Dr. Carol Eisenhut, Medical Director, DCL Medical Laboratories. “Regular screening using the testing technologies available makes cervical cancer highly preventable.

We have been providing HPV testing for our clients since 1998 and are pleased with how this technology in combination with the Pap empowers physicians to better protect their patients.”

Leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Cancer Society (ACS) and The American Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) have updated their cervical cancer screening guidelines to include HPV testing.

Cervical Cytology Screening Guidelines from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Cancer Society recommend that if a patient’s Pap test is normal, but HPV test is positive, she should be retested in six to 12 months<sup>2</sup>.

The DNAwithPAP™ test can be performed out of the ThinPrep™ Pap test vial from the same sample collected for the Pap test.

“We encourage physicians to educate their female patients who are age 30 and over about the significance of HPV testing along with the Pap test,” said Dr. Eisenhut.

Focused on women’s health, DCL Medical Laboratories researches, markets and performs anatomic, clinical and molecular pathology testing for medical diagnostic applications.

DCL is committed to being a preferred medical laboratory partner with a personal approach to delivering the innovative and consultative solutions that empower clients and improve lives.

<sup>1</sup> Clavel C, Masure M, Bory JP, Putaud I, Mangeonjean C, Lorenzato F et al. “Human Papillomavirus Testing in Primary Screening for the Detection of High-Grade Cervical Lesions: A Study of 7932 Women.” Br J Cancer 2001; 89(12): 1616-1623.

<sup>2</sup> Wright, TC, Schiffman, M, Solomon, D, et al. Interim guidance for the use of human papillomavirus DNA testing as an adjunct to cervical cytology for screening. Obstet Gynecol 2004; 103:304-309.