



HEALTH AWARENESS

Progress In Cervical Cancer Screening

(NAPSA)—Groundbreaking new cervical cancer screening guidelines could lead to more conclusive, faster and less stressful results for millions of women and their doctors. This good news is prompting more women than ever to get a test for human papillomavirus (HPV) after receiving an inconclusive Pap test result.

Women are also increasingly searching out information on HPV, which studies show is the primary cause of cervical cancer. One Web site, www.thehpvtest.com, features extensive information on the topic. Said a visitor in a posted message, “I had two abnormal Pap smears and then needed a colposcopy and biopsy. Because of all of the recent media attention given to the HPV test, I also requested a HPV test. I just got the results back and all tests were negative. What a relief. It’s a real comfort to know that you do not have the virus. Although, I wish I could have known sooner.”

The new clinical guidelines, published recently in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, recommend testing for HPV in the management of the over two million women each year who receive borderline Pap test results known as ASC-US (atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance). The Consensus Guidelines were sponsored by the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) and developed with input from 29 leading medical organizations, including the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Cancer Society. They are the first evidence-based, national practice guidelines to direct doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers on how and when to manage women with abnormal Pap results.

“Borderline Pap test results have traditionally been very frustrating for both physicians and patients because there was no



A groundbreaking test for HPV, the primary cause of cervical cancer, helps women get more conclusive results faster.

clear direction on how to manage these women,” said Dr. Diane McGrory, a gynecologist with Gynecology Partners in Weston, Massachusetts. “By testing for HPV, a physician can better determine which patients should have a colposcopy and which patients can be safely returned to normal screening. While many physicians are already using HPV testing, the new Consensus Guidelines should help establish it as the standard of care.”

The U.S. Army recently began implementing HPV testing for all its enlisted women and female beneficiaries. According to the Army’s senior ob/gyn physician, “Inconclusive Pap test results have always been a problematic area for physicians and their patients. This is especially true in the Army for our female soldiers, where certainty or lack of certainty over their health status can impact their readiness for deployment.”

To find out more about HPV testing and cervical cancer screening, visit www.thehpvtest.com. The Web site was created by Digene Corporation, maker of the Hybrid Capture 2 HPV DNA Test, the only FDA-approved test for HPV, the primary cause of cervical cancer.