



Health Bulletin

The Right Questions Can Change Your Life

(NAPSA)—Catherine Jones, 27, made a simple decision that had a huge impact on her health. She asked her doctor for a new cervical cancer screening exam, and was shocked by the results.

Every year, Jones made a trip to the gynecologist for her checkup and Pap smear. Jones had received annual Pap smears since she was 18 and none had ever come back abnormal. This year she went to a new office. The new patient paperwork she had to complete included information about the PapSure® screening exam.

The exam combines the results of a traditional Pap smear with speculscopy (a visual examination of the cervix) using Speculite®, a disposable, chemiluminescent light for vaginal illumination. This helps physicians visually identify cervical abnormalities or lesions that are potentially cancerous.

Clinical studies demonstrate that PapSure more than doubles the detection of abnormalities in cervical cancer screening—92 percent compared to just 41 percent for a Pap smear alone. Although PapSure detected significantly more disease than the Pap smear alone, the increase in sensitivity was accompanied by an expected decrease in specificity from 95 percent to 80 percent.

Having read these significant statistics, Jones asked for the exam and the results contradicted those of her previous eight Pap smears. During the visual portion of the PapSure exam, her doctor immediately recognized a large area of precancerous cells on her cervix. Knowing something was abnormal, her doctor explained all of the possibilities and potential treatments.

One week later, Jones received the results of her Pap smear. Her results were negative—her Pap



smear noted **no** abnormalities. With the positive visual assessment and a negative Pap smear, her PapSure was considered positive and she underwent a biopsy. Her biopsy came back positive for precancerous lesions and shortly thereafter, Jones began treatment on the area of abnormal cervical cells. She remains in good health today, but has to visit her doctor every six months until 2003.

Although Jones was surprised at her PapSure results, she also was reassured that her doctor was able to see the abnormalities and provide her the visual results of the exam immediately. Additionally, if Jones had only had a Pap smear that day, she would have received, and accepted, her results as negative and waited until it was time for her next exam. The cells would have had more time to grow.

When asked what she would tell women who are not sure about having a PapSure test, she commented, "The test was invaluable to me. I think that every woman each year should have a PapSure exam to have peace of mind."

Currently a student at California State University, Fullerton, Jones is pursuing a degree in chemistry and is expected to graduate in 2003.