

What is the best strategy for cervical cancer prevention in Cyprus?

Proposal by the Committee of European Experts – May 2010

Summary

The Committee of European Experts has taken into account all facts including: (a) The most recent results of European Randomised Controlled Trials, which proved that the HPV DNA test as the primary screening test prevents more cancer precursors (CIN3+) and more invasive cervical cancers in comparison to the Pap test. (b) The provision by the current edition (2008) of the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening for organised pilot application of HPV DNA testing as the primary screening test. **The Committee of European Experts proposes that all women aged 30-65 undertake an HPV DNA test once every 5 years.** The undertaking of this new preventive screening test for Cypriot women, must be preceded by a period of comprehensive, continuous and full information of the public and Health Professionals regarding these issues, as well as one or more pilot applications of this new way of testing, with aim the investigation of possible special or underlying problems, which may arise during the period of application. The first pilot applications of the new program could be funded: (a) By the Cyprus Government in the area of Paphos, where a relatively increased incidence of this disease is observed, with an annual cost that will not exceed €300,000. (b) By private organisations or health funds with an annual cost that will not exceed €1,000 per 100 employees or insured persons.

Notes

The full proposal can be downloaded from the web-site www.mendelcenter.org and has been submitted to the Cyprus Minister of Health and other stakeholders (Gynecologists, Cyto- and Histo-pathologists, Molecular Biologists, Cancer Societies, Women's Organizations, Insurance Companies) for implementation.

Committee of European Experts

Prof. Theodoros Agorastos: professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Thessaloniki; president of the Hellenic Society for research and treatment of HPV

Prof. Jack Cuzick: professor of epidemiology at the University of London; first author of EUROGIN Guidelines on cervical cancer screening; president of the International Society of Cancer Prevention

Dr Marc Arbyn: director of the Unit of Cancer Epidemiology within the Scientific Institute of Public Health in Brussels; leader the Cervical Cancer Prevention Group of Gynecological Cancer Cochrane Review Collaboration (worldwide); editor-in-chief of the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening

Dr Silvia de Sanjose: director of the Infections and Cancer Unit, Cancer Epidemiology Research Program, Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO); member of the editorial board of "HPV Today"; co-investigator of the World Health Organisation/ICO Information Center on HPV and Cervical Cancer

Prof. Guglielmo Ronco: editor of the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening; coordinator of Italian Randomised Controlled Trial comparing HPV vs Pap

Prof. Chris J.L. Meijer: professor of molecular pathology at the VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam; first author of EUROGIN Guidelines on HPV DNA typing; coordinator of Netherlands' Randomised Controlled Trial comparing HPV vs Pap

Prof. Karl Ulrich Petry: professor of obstetrics and gynecology and coordinator of the first European organised screening program employing HPV DNA testing in Wolfsburg, Germany, which received the Pearl of Wisdom Award at the European Parliament in 2009; president of the European Federation of Colposcopy