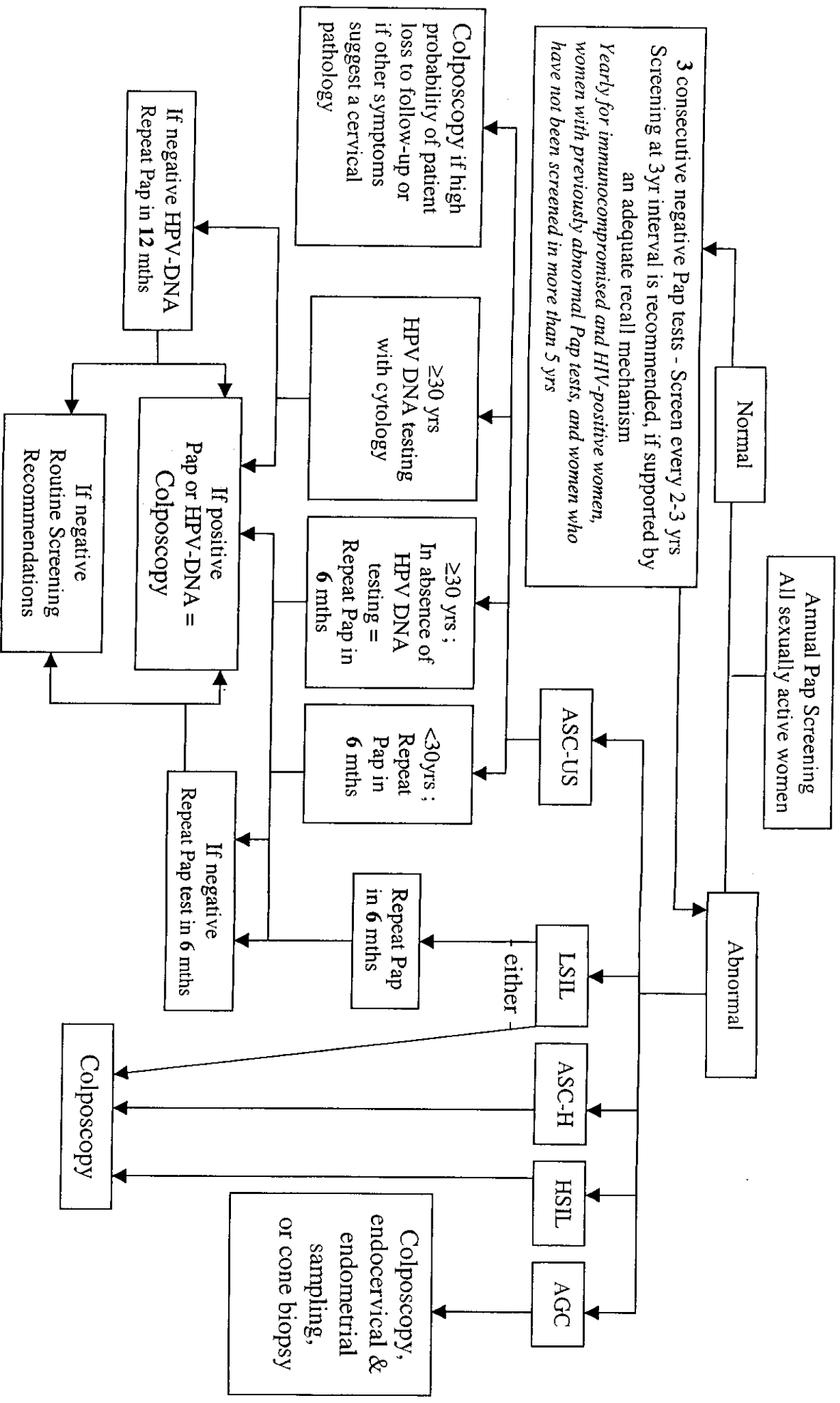


# Cervical Screening Flowsheet

Program in Evidence Based Care- Cancer Care Ontario – June 2005



Discontinue screening if woman has undergone total hysterectomy or if >70 yrs and 3-4 negative Pap tests in previous 10 yrs

- Qualifiers:
- Minimum guidelines only
  - Repeat Pap should not be performed earlier than 3 mths following original
  - Pap should not be used as sole assessment of visible cervical lesion – require biopsy for accurate diagnosis



September, 2001

## HPV Fact Sheet for Patients

### What is HPV?

There are over 70 different types of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a virus most commonly known to cause warts on the hands and feet. Some types of HPV infect the genital tract. Genital HPV types are sexually transmitted and can cause external genital warts or cell changes on the cervix that increase a woman's risk for cervical cancer.

Most HPV infections do not result in genital warts or cervical disease and a healthy immune system will often suppress or clear the virus. Most people don't even know they have the virus.

### Cervical Cancer and HPV

- Worldwide, cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers among women.
- In Canada, there were approximately 1450 new cases of cervical cancer and 430 deaths caused by cervical cancer in 2000.
- Cervical cancer is a preventable disease if detected and treated early.
- Certain high-risk strains of HPV cause cervical cell changes which, over a period of time, can develop into cancer if untreated.
- Testing for these high-risk HPV strains helps to resolve the questions and concern associated with an uncertain or ASCUS Pap test result.

### The Pap Test and the HPV Test

The Pap test, or smear, is a common screening test used to find signs of cervical cancer or cells that may turn into cancer cells in the future. If you have had an uncertain Pap test result (reported as ASCUS - Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance), you are probably wondering exactly what that means. Like many women, you may be concerned about cervical cancer.

Generally, an ASCUS result means that some abnormal cells are present, however, their significance is not clear. This sort of result might indicate a potential health risk or problem or might simply indicate that the sample was not well preserved.

**CLIENT NOTICE**

December, 2005

**Human papillomavirus (HPV)** is now well established as the major etiologic agent for cervical cancer and its precursors. Recent studies show that high-risk HPV types are found in more than 99.7% of cervical cancer cases.

Cancer Care Ontario Cervical Screening Practice Guidelines recommend HPV DNA testing for all women aged 30 years or older with ASC-US Pap smear results.<sup>1</sup> In the United States, national guidelines and recommendations from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) and the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP)<sup>2</sup> all now recommend that high-risk HPV testing be used in conjunction with the Pap test for improved detection of cervical disease and cancer.

Gamma-Dynacare Medical Laboratories has offered the Digene Hybrid Capture 2® HPV DNA Assay for the detection of 13 high-risk oncogenic strains of HPV for the past 5 years. These 13 types account for the vast majority of HPV associated neoplastic changes involving the cervix. The Digene HPV Test is FDA-approved for:

- Primary screening, in conjunction with a Pap, of women age 30 years and older; and
- Triage of women of any age with ASC-US Pap results.

**As of January 1, 2006 Ontario Public Health Laboratories will discontinue performing the HPV test.**

Gamma-Dynacare currently provides more than 50% of all HPV testing performed within Ontario's community laboratories and we will be pleased to provide this service for you. Our charge to your patient will continue to be \$90.00 for the test as it is not covered by OHIP. However, it is likely to be covered by your patient's supplementary health insurance or extended health care plan.

**To order the HPV Test**

- Write HPV on the Diagnostic Cytology requisition. Clearly indicate if the HPV test should only be performed in the event that the Pap test result is ASC-US, or
- Order the HPV test as an add-on if the result is ASC-US (verbally or by fax-back to the cytology department). Prompt attention is required to allow the laboratory to conduct the HPV test within the 21-day window from collection of the SurePath liquid based Pap test sample, or
- Simply write HPV clearly on the OHIP requisition if ordering HPV only.

**Collection options**

- A Liquid Based PAP Collection Kit can be used for both PAP and HPV tests.
- The HPV Collection Kit (the Digene Cervical Sampler) can be used. These samplers can be ordered with your regular lab supplies.
- If you choose to collect separate samples, collect the HPV sample after the Pap smear sample has been taken.

**For further information regarding the HPV Test, please contact: Dr. Julius Kapala, Microbiology at 905-790-3000 or 1-800-668-2714; Dr. W. Chapman or June Evans, Cytology at 905-790-3000 or 1-800-668-2714 or Sue Cliphsham, Cytology, Ottawa at 613-729-0200**

<sup>1</sup> Cancer Care Ontario - Cervical Screening: A Clinical Practice Guideline C.M. McLauchlin, V. Mai, J. Murphy, M. Lung Yee Fung, A. Chambers, Ontario Cervical Screening Program May 20, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> 2001 Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Women with Cervical Cytological Abnormalities Thomas C. Wright, Jr., MD; J. Thomas Cox, MD; L. Stewart Massad, MD; Lea B. Twiggs, MD; Lidward J. Wilkinson, MD; for the 2001 ASCCP - Sponsored Consensus Conference JAMA 2002; 287:2120-2129.