What will daily practice be like for those working in HPV Testing in the HPV primary screening era?

#### Rebecca Lucas-Roxburgh

## **Cervical screening with cytology**

- NCSP established in 1991 as a coordinated national programme
- Significant reduction in cervical cancer incidence and mortality since then
- However cytology is a highly interpretive test and suffers from low sensitivity



## HPV as a primary test

#### • Advantages:

- Higher sensitivity than cytology for pre-cancerous lesions
- Higher negative predictive values
- Can safely have longer screening intervals
- The Athena trial:
  - One in four women who are HPV 16 positive will have cervical disease within three years
  - Nearly 1 in 7 women with normal Pap cytology who were HPV 16 positive actually had high-grade cervical disease that was missed by cytology.
  - Sensitivity for CIN3 of
    - cytology 53%,
    - HPV primary 92%

## Who's already done it

#### • Australia

- Changed December 1, 2017
- 5 yearly HPV test replaced 2 yearly smear
- 25-74 age range
- England
  - Changed December 2019
  - 25-64 age range
  - 3 yearly HPV test for 25-49 year olds, 5 yearly for 50-64 year olds
- Scotland
  - Changed March, 2020
  - 5 yearly HPV test
  - 25-64 age range
- Netherlands
  - Changed January 2017
  - 5 yearly HPV test
  - 30-60 age range

#### In New Zealand

- HPV tests have been used since 2010 in addition to cytology under certain criteria.
- Much anticipated change to come in 2023
- Work already completed
  - Register
  - Public consultation
  - Development of screening algorithms

## The testing process

- Actual testing of samples only a small part of the process.
- Patient management forms a significant part of the screening process.
- Lab results inform clinicians what happens next – colposcopy referrals, routine repeats, further testing etc



The proposed screening process



#### The proposed screening process



#### The proposed screening process

## Examples of when cytology needed

- In addition to reflex testing on HPV positive samples, cytology required:
  - In symptomatic women
  - In the test of cure process
  - If previous cytology unsatisfactory (cytology only, not HPV test required)
  - Cytology alone may be required to follow up on HPV detected swab samples (additional HPV tests not required)

## **HPV testing**

- Requirements
- Similarities
- Turn around times
- Sample types
- Self sampling
- Numbers and positivity rates
- Reporting results

#### Requirements

• Section 5 requirements:

"A lead HPV testing scientist who is a medical laboratory scientist with a post-graduate degree in molecular science and a minimum of five years fulltime (or equivalent) post-qualification experience in molecular science including a minimum of two years of experience in diagnostic molecular testing".

#### **Similarities**

- Testing process
- Leaky samples
- QA programmes
- Environmental testing

### **Turn Around Times**

- Currently at 15 days for HrHPV tests (98%)
- Will be 3 days (100% in 3 days)
- HPV and cytology to be reported together
- Turn around time for reflex cytology testing:
  - 100% in 10 days (same for cytology only)

## Sample types

- Clinician collected and self-collected
- More important:



## Sample types continued

• LBC samples

- Collected by a clinician during a speculum exam

- Swab samples
  - Can be either:
    - self collected, or
    - clinician collected (no speculum exam required)

## Self sampling workflow

- Likely dry swab received by lab
- Re-suspension required
  - Manual step
  - Could be time consuming depending on numbers of swab samples received.

#### Numbers

- Currently labs process around 31,000 HPV tests per year.
- With HPV primary screening:

Test	Currently	With HPV primary
Cytology	430,000	80,000
HPV	31,000	425,000

## **Current use of HPV testing**

• Test of cure

- For women with previous High grade lesions

• <u>Triage</u>

For women aged >30 with ASCUS/Low grade

Patient management tool / colposcopy request

#### **Current positivity rates**

- Triage test
  - 22.3% for women with ASC-US results, and 59.4% for women with LSIL results
- Colposcopy requested
  - No data available but generally a high percentage
- Test of cure
  - Not covered by monitoring report but generally lower than that seen for triage testing

## **Expected positivity rates**

- Types 16/18
  - Approximately 2% positive in the first few years after transition,
  - Approximately 3% around five years after the transition
  - Percentage expected to decrease after that.
- Other high risk HPV types
  - Approximately 6% positive for non-16/18 HrHPV in the first few years after transition,
  - Approximately 7% around five years after transition

# **Cytology results**

Consist of three components:

- 1. Specimen adequacy
  - Satisfactory or unsatisfactory
- 2. Interpretation
  - Normal / abnormal + other findings
- 3. Recall
  - When to return for next screen

# Molecular / cytology roles

- Molecular and cytology departments will likely work much more closely after the transition.
- Input from cyto-scientists / cyto-technicians will be important for sample management in the lab.
- Key decision points are at the beginning and end of the testing process.

## **Cytology input**



- <u>At registration</u>
  - Which samples need HPV / cytology or both
  - For example: Test of Cure, previous unsatisfactory cytology, symptomatic women.

## **Cytology input**



- <u>At reporting</u>
  - Patient recalls can be complex
  - Dependent on many factors including patient age, previous results, which HPV type/s detected etc

### The screening register

- There will be a new / updated register introduced
- Stores information on:
  - Test results: Cytology, histology, and HrHPV
  - Recall recommendations
  - Other events eg. pregnancy

#### An example history

Screening History										
Event Date	Event	Lab ID	Specimen ID	Site Code	Specimen Type	Adequacy	Rec	Interpretation Codes	Grade	
30-NOV-20	HrHPV	PN	200015388120 3600		RHAMP			Not Detected		
30-NOV-20	CYT	PN	200015388123 R 7500		L	S1	R1	OT1	N	
30-AUG-18	HrHPV	PN	180033465720 3600		RHAMP			Not Detected		
30-AUG-18	CYT	PN	180033465723 R 7500		L	S1	R13		N	
28-MAR-18	HrHPV	PN	18002478122 3600	0	RHAMP			Not Detected		
28-MAR-18	CYT	PN	18002478122 7500	3 R	L	S1	R9	ASL	L	
11-MAY-17	CYT	PN	17000632562	3 R	L	S1	R8		Ν	
04-OCT-16	HIST	PN	H25928/1662	1 T83	P11461	SAT		M74008	н	
24-AUG-16	HIST	PN	H23893/1662	1 T83	P11481	SAT		M76700, M74008	н	
13-JUL-16	CYT	PN	16002016362 7500	3R	L	S1	R9	HS1	н	
03-JAN-15	PREG									
27-JUN-12	CYT	PN	12000995520 237500	1 R	L	S1	R1		Ν	
26-FEB-09	CYT	PN	0900045766	R	0	S1	R1		N	
15-NOV-07	HIST	PN	07H16494	T83200	В	SAT		M60000	N	
15-NOV-07	CYT	PN	0700211200	R	Р	S1	R13	None	N	
05-APR-07	HIST	PN	07H05650	T83200	В	SAT		M73000	N	
05-APR-07	CYT	PN	0700054140	R	Р	S1	R13	None	N	
10-OCT-06	CYT	PN	0600171807	R	Р	S1	R9	LS	L	
07-APR-06	CYT	PN	0600058663	R	Р	S1	R5	LS	L	

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30-AUG-18	CYT	PN	18003346572 7500	23 R	L	S1	R13		N	
28-MAR-18	HrHPV	PN	18002478122 3600	20	RHAMP			Not Detected		
28-MAR-18	CYT	PN	18002478122 7500	23 R	L	S1	R9	ASL	L	
11-MAY-17	CYT	PN	17000632562 7500	23 R	L	S1	R8		N	
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## Vaccination in New Zealand

- A National HPV vaccination programme commenced in New Zealand in 2008.
- When introduced, the quadrivalent HPV vaccine was offered to young women born in 1990 and 1991.
- In 2009, the HPV vaccination programme was extended to girls and young women born from 1992 onwards.
- From 2017 nine-valent vaccine offered
- Vaccine now free to all aged 9-26

#### Vaccination continued

- Vaccination coverage in 2017 was approximately 70% for boys and girls aged 12 years.
- The impact of vaccination on screening outcomes is being seen in the 25-29 year old cohort.
- Initial 12 year old cohort now aged ~25 and entering screening

#### Vaccination continued

- Those vaccinated from 2008 2016 have protection against 16/18 only.
- Those vaccinated from 2017 onwards (now aged ~17) have protection against an additional 5 HrHPV types
- Effects of vaccination will increase over time as cohorts reach screening age.

## **Future directions**

- Decreased screening due to vaccination
- Methylation
- Extended genotyping
- Point of care testing



the potential of elimination through vaccination."



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Access to Treatmen