ThinPrep® Pap Test™ Doubles Detection Rate of Pre-Cancerous Lesions in New Study

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The ThinPrep® Pap Test™ doubles detection rate of pre-cancerous lesions in new study. The study demonstrates that the ThinPrep method positively contributes to the fulfillment of the purpose.

The ThinPrep method virtually eliminated a significant drawback of the conventional Pap smear — specimens whose quality is limited by the presence of inflammation or blood or by poor collection procedures in the physician’s office. With the ThinPrep Pap Test, the number of specimens categorized as “satisfactory but limited,” due to obscuring blood declined by 99.8 percent; poor collection by 99.3 percent; and obscuring inflammation by 94.3 percent. These limitations of interpretation affected 7.8 percent of the conventional smears but only 0.3 percent of the ThinPrep slides.

The authors conclude, “Since the main purpose of Pap smear testing is to detect precancerous intraepithelial lesions, it is obvious from our study that the ThinPrep method positively contributes to the fulfillment of the purpose.”

“Since we began offering the ThinPrep Pap Test, we have seen many clients enthusiastically adopt it as a replacement for the conventional Pap smear,” said Harvey W. Kaufman, M.D., Vice President and Chief Laboratory Officer of Quest Diagnostics. “As the leading provider of cervical cancer screening, we are committed to making effective new technology available to our clients and patients. This study demonstrates the effectiveness of this new technology in a large clinical laboratory setting.”

Cytyc Corporation develops, manufactures, and markets the ThinPrep® System for medical diagnostic applications. The ThinPrep System consists of the ThinPrep® 2000 Processor and related reagents, such as PreservCyt®, filters, and other supplies. Since introduction, Cytyc has manufactured more than 1,000 ThinPrep 2000 Processors and 10 million ThinPrep® Pap Tests for cervical cancer screening.

Cytyc®, PreservCyt® and ThinPrep® are registered trademarks and ThinPrep® Pap Test is a trademark of Cytyc Corporation.

Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, based in Teterboro, New Jersey, is the nation’s leading provider of diagnostic testing, information and services to physicians, hospitals, managed care organizations and government agencies with annualized revenues of more than $3 billion. The wide variety of tests performed on human tissue and fluids help doctors and hospitals diagnose, treat and monitor disease. Its Nichols Institute unit conducts research, specializes in esoteric testing using genetic screening and other advanced technologies, and manufactures and distributes diagnostic test kits and instruments. Quest Diagnostics is one of the leading providers of testing to support clinical trials of new pharmaceuticals worldwide.

Forward-looking statements in this press release are made pursuant to the provisions of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Investors are cautioned that statements in this press release which are not strictly historical statements, including, without limitation, statements regarding management's plans and objectives for future operations, product plans and performance, potential savings to the healthcare system, management's assessment of market factors, as well as statements regarding the strategy and plans of Cytyc Corp., constitute forward-looking statements which involve risks and uncertainties, including, without limitation, risks associated with the Company’s dependence on a single product, uncertainty of market acceptance and additional cost, dependence on timely and adequate levels of third-party reimbursement, CPT code implementation delays and delays in reimbursement, risks associated with potential year 2000 software disruptions involving the products and systems of the Company and certain third party customers, suppliers, and payers, limited marketing and sales experience, and limited number of customers and lengthy sales cycle, as well as risks of downturns in economic conditions generally, and in the healthcare industry specifically, risks associated with competition and competitive pricing pressures, potential liabilities and costs associated with litigation, and other risks detailed in the Company’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including in its 1998 Form 10-K filed with the Commission.

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