

Pap tests,

road safety and you

The key to women's health



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PATHOLOGY

Pap tests and road safety. They're two subjects that you don't often see in the same sentence. Until now.

We all understand the importance of road safety. You wouldn't drive a car without buckling up your seatbelt and knowing that your brakes are working properly.

But sometimes brakes and seatbelts are not enough. You want even more protection, so you go for optional extras like airbags and ABS braking. You'll probably never need it, but it's good to know that it's there...just in case.

Your traditional Pap test is a bit like your car brakes and seatbelt. It tests for abnormal cells in the cervix that may lead to cervical cancer if left untreated. It's a good test and it works very efficiently. Every year it saves 1200 Australian women from developing cancer of the cervix. However, it's not a perfect test.

But here's the really good news. The Pap test now has airbags.

A second test known as ThinPrep® can help detect even more abnormal cells.

Routine Pap tests take cells from your cervix and smear them onto a glass slide. These are then manually checked by highly trained scientists and pathologists who search for any cell abnormalities. It's detective work that requires persistence, patience and skill. It can be a bit like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

ThinPrep® uses the same sample in a different way. The doctor rinses the cells into a liquid which is processed and analysed first by a computer Imager and then by scientists and pathologists. The testing procedure doesn't take any longer for you and doesn't need anything more to be taken at the time of testing.



So, is it any better?

In 2006, Sonic Healthcare's Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology undertook a landmark study of 55,000 Australian women in conjunction with Sydney University to see if there were any extra benefits using ThinPrep® with Imager in addition to the traditional Pap test. The results (which were published in the prestigious BMJ) were astounding. ThinPrep® with Imager detected 27% more significantly abnormal cases than would have been identified by the traditional Pap smear alone. That's a lot more peace of mind.

In Australia, ThinPrep® is not rebatable by Medicare. There is a small additional fee, but we think that it's a valuable and measurable investment in your own preventative health.



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The really important stuff

- Pap tests are really important
- You still need to have regular Pap tests EVEN if you've had the HPV vaccine
- ThinPrep® with Imager is an improved type of Pap test
- There is an additional fee that is not Medicare refundable but it is a small cost for even more peace of mind
- Remember if you have any symptoms such as bleeding, pain or discharge please see your doctor.



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