

## **Positive High Risk HPV Pap Letter**

Patient Diagnosis:

**Positive for High Risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**

The Pap test is intended to detect cancer and changes that may lead to cancer. **The Pap test recently performed by your Doctor has shown that you are positive for High Risk HPV.** This diagnosis does not mean that you have cervical cancer but that you may be at a higher risk to develop precancerous cervical lesions or cervical cancer. Your HPV results will be reviewed by your physician in conjunction with your Pap results and your clinical history, to determine the most appropriate follow-up plan for you.

### **Facts about HPV**

- HPV is a virus, commonly transmitted during sexual activity, including oral sex.
- HPV types are divided into Low Risk and High Risk Types. Low Risk HPV is associated with genital warts and is not associated with a higher risk of cervical cancer. High Risk HPV can lead to abnormal cell changes and has been associated with the development of cervical cancer.
- High Risk HPV infections may clear on their own within two years or less and if so will not lead to cervical cancer. Persistent HPV infections that do not clear have been linked to the development of cervical cancer. Both precancerous and cancerous lesions can often be treated surgically.
- It is important to follow your clinician's recommendations regarding follow-up and treatment.

### **Facts about Cervical Cancer**

- The American Cancer Society predicts that about 12,170 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in the U.S. in 2012.
- Risk factors for cervical cancer include, but are not limited to: HPV (high risk) infection, sexual activity at a young age, a history of multiple sexual partners, smoking, and conditions that compromise the immune system, such as HIV infection.
- The five year survival rate for cervical cancer is greater than 90%.
- Death from cervical cancer is rare in women younger than 30 and in women of any age who have regular screenings with the Pap test.

### **Sources for Additional Information**

- American Cancer Society: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or 800-227-2345
- National Cancer Institute: [www.nci.gov](http://www.nci.gov) or 800-4-CANCER
- WebMD: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)

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