

**GLOBAL SUMMIT 2008:
GLOBAL CONSORTIUM TO END CERVICAL CANCER
Key Messages**

- ***The Global Consortium of Women to End Cervical Cancer unites business, professional and governmental leaders in the effort to ensure that all women are educated about cervical cancer prevention and have access to HPV-based prevention tools and programs.***
 - The effort is a project of the Global Summit of Women, which brings together high-caliber leaders in an annual information and idea exchange designed to advance the role of women within the global marketplace.
 - The Global Consortium of Women to End Cervical Cancer recognizes that a woman's health is fundamental to her ability to participate in society at all levels. If a woman is not healthy, she cannot run corporations, own small businesses or even work day-to-day in many cases.
 - The Global Consortium urges women leaders worldwide to educate women about cervical cancer, HPV, and the role of new screening and vaccination technologies in its prevention; to encourage governments to make affordable, accessible HPV technologies available to all girls and women; and to inform the media so that they can spread the word.

- ***Cervical cancer is the second-most-common cancer and one of the leading cancer killers of women worldwide.***
 - Each year, approximately 500,000 women worldwide are diagnosed with cervical cancer and an estimated 250,000 women die of the disease, according to the World Health Organization.
 - In many developing countries, cervical cancer is the most common cancer affecting women; 80% of cervical cancer deaths occur in developing countries.
 - Cervical cancer typically affects women over age 40 – who are often in the prime of their lives, raising children, caring for family, and contributing to society and the economy.

- ***Cervical cancer is highly preventable. We know it is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) and we have the tools – the Pap test, the HPV test and the HPV vaccine – to beat it. Prevention strategies that target HPV offer major new opportunities to eliminate cervical cancer.***

Pap Test:

 - The Pap test, a procedure in which cervical cells are viewed under a microscope for abnormalities caused by HPV, has successfully helped reduce cervical cancer rates in countries with well-established screening programs.
 - The test is not perfect, however. It is subjective, meaning that abnormal cells can be missed. It also requires an infrastructure of highly-trained technologists, which does not exist in much of the developing world.
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HPV Test:

 - The HPV test is a molecular test that detects the presence of high-risk types of HPV in order to identify women at risk for cervical cancer.
 - The HPV test is more accurate than a Pap test in identifying women needing early intervention.
 - Numerous published studies have concluded that HPV testing could enable countries to diagnose more cases of cervical disease, save more lives and better

target healthcare resources to those women who need them, versus prevention programs that do not include HPV testing.

HPV Vaccine:

- New HPV vaccines have been shown to be effective in preventing infection with the two types of HPV that cause 70 percent of all cervical cancers.
- The HPV vaccines are most effective for girls and young women who have likely not been exposed to the targeted types of HPV.

Effective cervical cancer prevention strategies should include both screening and vaccination:

- HPV vaccination does not protect women who have already been infected with the targeted types of HPV.
- The vaccine is unlikely to provide adequate protection from cervical cancer caused by HPV types not included in the vaccines.

- ***In developing economies, prevention programs that combine affordable and accessible screening and vaccination with immediate treatment offer the potential to save thousands of women from cervical cancer each year.***

- Fewer than 5% of women in developing economies are screened for cervical cancer risk.
- Pap testing is the norm in industrialized economies, but the required infrastructure and the need for frequent re-testing renders it impractical for settings with low resources and cultural/logistical barriers to frequent clinic visits.
- A new, low-cost HPV test customized for low-resource countries is now in development. The test is accurate and affordable, yet does not require fresh water or electricity. In addition, the necessary equipment is highly portable, can be run by persons with minimal training, and produces results in just 2.5 hours – thus allowing immediate treatment if needed.