The current American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) guidelines support HPV high risk DNA co-testing and high risk testing for HPV types 16 and 18. The current recommendations indicate that HPV high risk DNA co-testing in combination with cervical cytology testing (Pap test) is the cervical cancer screening method of choice for routine screening of women 30-65 years of age. * HPV genotype specific testing for HPV 16/18 may be used to further stratify risk in this patient population with a negative Pap test and positive high-risk HPV testing. This testing is not intended for use in women under age 30 with normal cervical cytology. The HPV 16/18 test should be used in conjunction with clinical information including other diagnostic and screening tests, physical examination, medical history and be utilized in accordance with recommended management guidelines. In addition, the use of this test has not been evaluated in patients who are pregnant, status post hysterectomy, those who have other risk factors, post-menopausal patients and those patients with previous cytological or histologic abnormalities.

The 16/18 will no longer be available at St. Luke’s Cytology Department as a reflex test in high risk positive individuals. It may be ordered only as an add on test after the patient’s pap test and high risk HPV results are available.

*women who do not have personal history of cervical cancer, HIV infection, are not immunosuppressed and were not exposed to DES in utero or fall under any other recommended guidelines

References:

Third Wave Technologies Cervista HPV 16/18 test manual.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah J. Lundeen, M.D, Director of Cytopathology at (218) 249-5208, or Romine R. Deming, CT (ASCP) Technical Specialist of Cytopathology at (218) 249-5315.