

CDC Finds Few Follow HPV Recommendations

BY SHARON WORCESTER
Southeast Bureau

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Most ob.gyns. are ordering human papillomavirus testing for borderline Pap test results as recommended, but a substantial number are using the HPV test for nonrecommended purposes, or are ignoring other recommendations for the testing, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey shows.

Current recommendations of several U.S. organizations, including the CDC, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Cancer Society, support HPV testing to help guide management in patients with Pap test results showing atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS). Both ACOG and the

ACS also endorse HPV testing in those over 29 years old to identify infected women who might benefit from frequent follow-up Pap testing, Zsakeba Henderson, M.D., of the CDC, Atlanta, said at the annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology.

These uses for the HPV test, which tests for oncogenic HPV types, have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, she noted.

To determine the effects of the HPV testing guidelines on clinical practice, the CDC surveyed 3,339 physicians and mid-level clinicians who provide cervical cancer screening. Respondents included 464 ob.gyns., of whom 93% reported ever using the HPV test.

Of those, nearly all (99.6%) said they used it for ASCUS Pap test results as recommended. However, many were also using HPV testing for patients with Pap test results showing higher-grade lesions; 84% said they used it for atypical squamous cells results (cannot exclude high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions); 61% said they used it for low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions results; and 46% said they used it for high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions results, Dr.

Henderson noted.

Additionally, many of the ob.gyn. respondents used the test for nonrecommended purposes, including in patients with anogenital warts (26%), as a primary screen for HPV infection (28%), and to test for HPV in patients with other STDs (32%).

Only 37% reported ordering HPV testing as an adjunct to Pap testing in women older than 29 years as recommended; as many who were using it for this purpose in the over-29 population were using it for

screening in those aged 29 and younger, Dr. Henderson said.

But ob.gyns. who participated in the survey are doing better as a group, compared with other survey respondents, in regard to following the recommendations, she noted.

Overall, only 59% of the 3,339 survey respondents had ever used the HPV test (compared with 93% of ob.gyns.), about half of those used it for guiding management of ASCUS Pap test results (compared with nearly all of the ob.gyns. us-

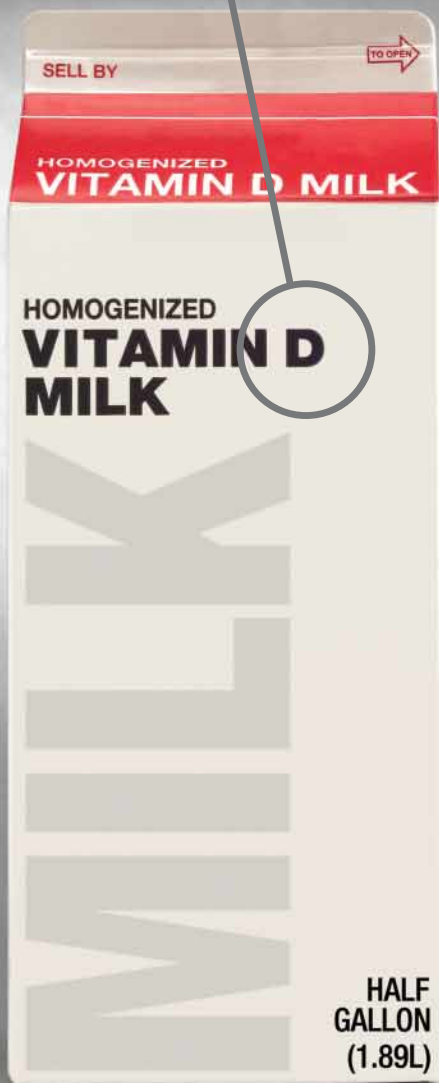
ing the HPV test), and only 21% used it as an adjunct to Pap testing in women over 29, compared with 37% of ob.gyns.

Nonrecommended uses in the overall survey population included testing of sexual partners of women with an STD, as an alternative to Pap testing, and upon request of the patient to determine HPV status.

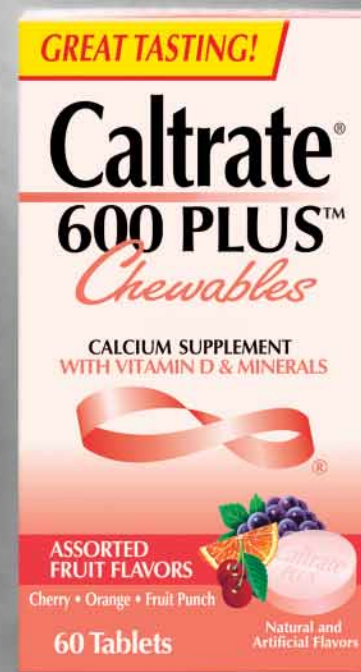
The CDC is using the survey findings to develop clinical training programs, decision support materials, and patient education materials, Dr. Henderson said. ■

Many ob.gyns. used the test for nonrecommended purposes, such as testing of sexual partners of women with an STD and in patients with anogenital warts.

Good idea for milk.



Good idea for a calcium supplement.



Unlike TUMS®, Caltrate® 600 PLUS™ Chewables contains 400 IU of vitamin D per daily dose, to help optimize calcium absorption

According to a recent report by the US Surgeon General:

- “The average American eats far too little calcium and vitamin D for good bone health”¹
- “If you are not getting enough calcium and vitamin D in your diet, supplements can be bone savers”²

Wyeth
Consumer Healthcare

Take along with a healthy diet and regular exercise.

References: 1. Office of the Surgeon General. *Bone Health and Osteoporosis: A Surgeon General's Report: What Is Bone Disease?* Available at: www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/bonehealth/factsheet1.html. Accessed November 19, 2004. Page 3. 2. *Bone Health and Osteoporosis: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Washington, DC: Office of the Surgeon General, US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2004:12.

© 2005 Wyeth Consumer Healthcare

A43324

1/05

caltrate.com

Smart Physicians, Smart Choices

Thanks for making **Ob.Gyn. News** the #1 publication for obstetrician-gynecologists.