

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada releases new public education video on abnormal Pap test results and possible treatment options for suspected cancer

Ottawa (Ontario), 26 October 2011 – Today, in celebration of National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week and in support of the National Pap Test Campaign, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) is releasing a new public education video entitled *My first visit to a specialist: An abnormal Pap test result*, a new public education resource developed in collaboration with the Society of Canadian Colposcopists. This 15-minute audio-visual production covers what happens when a woman receives a Pap test result that is not normal and describes the possible treatment options if cancer is suspected.

Thirty four million people live in Canada, 17 million of which are female. Ten million of these women should be getting a regular Pap test. According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, 15% of women have never been screened and 30% have not been screened in the last 3 years.

Of those who have been screened, it is estimated that each year in Canada, 400,000 women receive an abnormal Pap test result. This news leads to worry, concern and fear that an abnormal Pap test result represents a diagnosis of cancer. In fact, a Pap test is meant to detect abnormal cells in the cervix, if left untreated, could develop into cancer. It is not necessarily a confirmation that a woman has cancer.

“This video is meant to help increase women’s understanding of what it means to have an abnormal test result. Our hope is to better manage their expectations with respect to next steps and decrease the stress associated with receiving this news,” expressed Dr. Mark Heywood, President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

This video also helps viewers gain a better appreciation of the specialty professions of colposcopy and gynecologic oncology, Canada’s gynaecologists with specialized training in cancer screening and treatments for women.

To access the new public education video visit www.hpvinfos.ca/english-videos or www.sexualityandu.ca/video. his video has also been posted to YouTube.

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