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Cervical cancer screen: Past, present and future

Historically, Pap cytology-based, especially liquid cytology-based cervical cancer screen has been effective with demonstrated success of reducing both incidence and mortality of cervical cancer. Cytomorpholoigcal change itself is a surrogate marker that detects not only HPV-induced cytopathic effect but also the status of disease progression from LSIL to HSIL and to invasive cancer. The main advantage for Pap cytology, therefore, is the well-developed follow up algorithm with clear management scheme for each category of abnormality. However, Pap cytology suffers limitations including the subjective nature of the test and low sensitivity. Recently, HPV-primary screen has been employed in some countries. Problems associated with HPV primary screen include false positive findings and lack of direct correlation between HPV measurement with disease progression. As only small proportion of HPV infected individuals develop clinically significant pre-cancerous lesions and evetually cancer, neither cytology nor HPV testing serve as reliable predictive markers for disease progression. Furthermore, the impact of HPV vaccine on cervical cancer screen strategy remains to be determined. In this presentaiton, we will focus our discussion on molecular biomarkers and how can they be utilized in the future for cervical cancer screen.

Biography

Jianyu Rao is a tenured full Professor of Pathology and Epidemiology at University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He is a Chief of Cytopathology, Ex-Director of Gynecological Pathology, Director of International Telepathology and Medical Director of Cytotechnology School. He is a renowned expert in the areas of "Cancer biomarker and prevention studies, molecular cytopathology, urological cancer pathology and gynecological pathology, digital pathology and cancer nanomechanical studies". He is a Fellow of College of American Pathologist (FCAP), Fellow of Academy of Translational Medicine (FacdTM), member of Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, a member of California Nanosystem Institute and a Visiting Professor of Zhejiang University. He has been invited as a Speaker for over 150 meetings with over 150 peer-reviewed research publications.

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