



## **College Statement**

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<b>Title</b>	<b>RANZCOG/RACGP Joint Statement on Pap smears</b>
<b>Statement No.</b>	<b>C-Gyn 13</b>
<b>Date of this document</b>	<b>July 2004</b>
<b>First endorsed by Council</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Next review</b>	<b>July 2006</b>

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The Australian Health Technology Advisory Committee (AHTAC) has undertaken a review of the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and likely impact of automated and semi-automated technologies for detection of cervical pathology.<sup>1</sup>

In light of this report, and in view of the importance of continuing efforts to develop and improve a highly effective population-based screening program to prevent cervical cancer, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners are issuing this combined statement.

At present, the Pap smear remains the most cost-effective screening test for preventing cervical cancer by the detection of its precursors.

There are no other tests at the present time, which have been shown to have a justifiable cost benefit and their increased usage cannot be supported at the current time from a public health perspective. 'It is important to note that this is a rapidly evolving area. Further developments in the existing devices, as well as the emergency of other technologies, are likely to change the current situation in the near future.'<sup>1</sup>

There will be a need for large-scale Australian trials of any new technologies to determine their effectiveness and cost benefit. To that end the Colleges would be willing to participate in such trials.

The Colleges encourage all doctors and other health professionals to promote and perform high quality, regular second yearly Pap smear tests to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in the Australian community. General Practitioners have a pivotal role in the

recruitment of women who have never been screened or are under screened and encouraging all eligible women to participate in the program.

## **Reference**

1. Australian Health Technology Advisory Committee. Review of automated and semi-automated cervical screening devices. Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services, 1998.

## **Links to other related College Statements**

[C-Gyn 5: Screening for the prevention of cervical cancer](#)

[C-Gen 2: Guidelines for consent and the provision of information regarding proposed treatment](#)

## **Disclaimer**

This college statement is intended to provide general advice to Practitioners. The statement should never be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of each patient.

The statement has been prepared having regard to general circumstances. It is the responsibility of each Practitioner to have regard to the particular circumstances of each case, and the application of this statement in each case. In particular, clinical management must always be responsive to the needs of the individual patient and the particular circumstances of each case.

This College statement has been prepared having regard to the information available at the time of its preparation, and each Practitioner must have regard to relevant information, research or material which may have been published or become available subsequently.

Whilst the College endeavours to ensure that College statements are accurate and current at the time of their preparation, it takes no responsibility for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material that may have become available after the date of the statements.

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