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The Clinical Utility of p16 as a Biomarker in Cervical Cancer Screening
-Highlights from a satellite symposium held at EUROGIN 2007

The EUROGIN (European Research Organization on Genital Infection and Neoplasia) conference in Monte Carlo, Monaco was a scientific highlight of 2007. With close to 2000 attendees, including the leading experts in cervical cancer screening from around the world, much of the discussion centered on the role of biomarkers in cervical cancer screening. In particular, a satellite symposium entitled 'The Clinical Utility of p16 as a Biomarker in Cervical Cancer Screening' took place on October 4 and we are very pleased to provide, in this short review, some of the details from the presentations given.

Dr Tom Wright of Columbia University, New York said in his introductory words that "One of the roles of p16 is to increase the certainty of a diagnosis of CIN2/3". He noted the lack of accuracy in testing meant both that many women received unnecessary colposcopy and other women missed out on treatment at an early stage when it could be most beneficial.

Dr Jaume Ordi from the University of Barcelona in Spain presented the results of a pan-European study of p16 staining in immunohistology. His results showed an obvious benefit with p16 testing giving greater clarity and accuracy in making diagnoses and demonstrating very high inter-observer agreement. The only marketed test using p16 for histology is CINtec® Histology from mtm laboratories.

Dr Christine Bergeron of the Laboratoire Pasteur Cerba in France then presented on studies looking at the use of p16 as a biomarker in cytology. She was able to demonstrate a much higher level of specificity in highlighting women with abnormal tissue than by morphology alone and also that inter-observer agreement was very high. The only marketed test using p16 for cytology is CINtec® Cytology from mtm laboratories.

The final presentation was given by Dr K. Ulrich Petry from the Klinikum Wolfsburg in Germany. Dr Petry presented results from an ongoing clinical study looking at the utility of a new ELISA test using p16 as a biomarker. The results looked very promising though the trial is ongoing.

The data presented in this symposium amply demonstrated that p16 plays an essential role in improving the specificity of screening and the accuracy of diagnosis. If you would like to read in greater depth the details of these talks [CLICK HERE](#).