

Principles for Symposium

- (1) Achieving zero risk for cervical cancer is unrealistic given the performance characteristics of currently available screening tests
- (2) CIN3+ is the appropriate surrogate outcome for cervical cancer: randomized trials to show long term reduction of cervical cancer are not feasible. When comparing screening strategies using the endpoint of CIN3+, it is important to distinguish between screen-detected CIN3+ and future risk for CIN3+ (with reasonably complete disease ascertainment).
 - a. Screen detected CIN3+ is a function of sensitivity of a screening strategy: higher sensitivity (more CIN3+ detected) is a greater benefit
 - b. Less risk for future CIN3+ (given reasonably complete disease ascertainment) is a greater benefit: A limitation of this approach is that earlier detection of CIN3 is favored over strategies with delayed detection of CIN3 even though there may be no increased risk of invasive cancer after several rounds of screening
- (3) Reasonable risk is established by the strategy of cytology alone as a benchmark. Screening strategies with equivalent or better sensitivity for incident CIN3+ (without increased harm) would be acceptable options; strategies that appropriately balance increased benefit and decreased harms are preferred
- (4) Number of colposcopies that do not result in identification of CIN2+ is one consequence of over-screening and a surrogate for harm. When comparing screening strategies, the cumulative number of colposcopies over the same period of time is an appropriate metric (e.g. colposcopies per woman years). Measurement of other harms (such as impact on fertility or prematurity) may not be feasible on a large scale.
- (5) Management after a positive test is an integral part of a screening strategy; benefits and harms of the integrated screening/management algorithm should be the comparator:
 - a. What risk of prevalent CIN3+ triggers referral to colposcopy (e.g. 10%)?
 - b. What risk of prevalent or incident CIN3+ triggers more intensive follow up (e.g. 2%)?