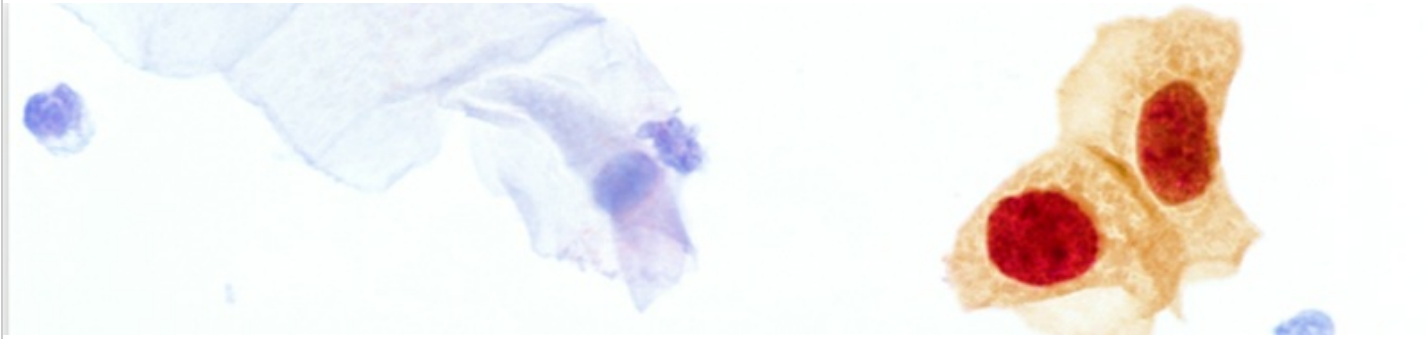

Media Release

Clinical value of Roche's CINtec® *PLUS* Cytology test confirmed for women with abnormal cervical cytology screening results

Tucson, AZ, June 16, 2015 - Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. (Ventana), a member of the Roche Group, today announced the publication of further results from the Primary ASC-US LSIL Marker Study (PALMS) in this month's issue of Cancer Cytopathology[1]. The PALMS study, which enrolled more than 27,000 women from five European countries, was designed to evaluate the diagnostic performance of the CINtec® *PLUS* Cytology[2] test in detecting pre-cancerous cervical disease compared to HPV testing and more traditional screening methods like Pap cytology.

In this latest publication based on the PALMS study results, the CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test was compared to pooled, high-risk HPV DNA testing as a triage or follow-up screening method for mildly abnormal Pap cytology results. The study confirmed that the CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test had significantly higher specificity and was more effective overall than the HC2 HPV test in identifying women with precancerous lesions. These results suggest that if implemented as a triage test in a cytology-based screening program, the CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test may lead to a reduction in the overtreatment of women screened for cervical disease.

"These latest results of PALMS confirm data from previous studies which have shown that incorporating the CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test in cervical cancer screening programs can provide real benefit to both clinicians and their patients," says Dr. Christine Bergeron, Laboratoire Cerba, Cergy Pontoise, France, PALMS study investigator and publication author. "As a triage test for abnormal cervical cancer screening results, the CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test could be very useful to differentiate women who will benefit most from immediate referral to colposcopy and diagnostic follow-up, from those women who can be followed up with less invasive methods."

More than 500,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year worldwide[3] and the average five-year survival rate of patients is only around 50%.[3] HPV infections are common and cause virtually all cervical cancer[3]; however, only those women with persistent HPV infections and who have developed high-grade precancerous cervical disease should be treated. The CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test was developed to help identify the subgroup of women with underlying transforming HPV infections that may lead to cancer and distinguish them from those with mostly transient infections.

"The results observed in PALMS are consistent with those demonstrated in many other published studies," said Tim Himes, Lifecycle Leader, CINtec and HPV-mediated Disease.

Follow us on Twitter

Join our Network LinkedIn

VMSI Media Relations

Jacquie Bucher
VP, Marketing and Corporate Communications
Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.
A member of the Roche Group
Tel 520.877.7288 o
Tel 520.468.9145 m
e-mail: Jacquie Bucher

“As countries begin to move towards primary screening with HPV, the need for an improved triage test will increase dramatically. We are therefore pleased to see that the CINtec *PLUS* Cytology test consistently demonstrates strong performance when used in the triage setting. By overcoming the known issues with Pap cytology, the test is well positioned to provide immediate benefit to women, doctors and screening programs globally.”

[1]Bergeron C, Ikenberg H, Sideri M, Denton K, Bogers J, Schmidt D, Alameda F, Keller T, Rehm S, Ridder R, and for the PALMS Study Group. Prospective evaluation of p16/Ki-67 dual-stained cytology for managing women with abnormal Papanicolaou cytology: PALMS study results. Cancer Cytopathol. 2015; 123(6):373-381
[2]The CINtec® *PLUS* Cytology test is not available in all geographies.
[3] World Health Organization Fact Sheet 380, March 2015: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs380/en/

Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. ("VMSI") (SIX: RO, ROG; OTCQX:RHHBY), a member of the Roche Group, innovates and manufactures instruments and reagents that automate tissue processing and slide staining for cancer diagnostics. VENTANA products are used in clinical histology and drug development research laboratories worldwide. The company's intuitive, integrated staining, workflow management platforms, and digital pathology solutions optimize laboratory efficiencies to help reduce errors, support diagnosis and enable informed treatment decisions by anatomic pathology professionals. Together with Roche, VMSI is driving Personalized Healthcare through accelerated drug discovery and the development of companion diagnostics to identify the patients most likely to respond favorably to specific therapies. Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world’s largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and neuroscience. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management. Roche’s personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostics that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. Founded in 1896, Roche has been making important contributions to global health for more than a century. Twenty-eight medicines developed by Roche are included in the World Health Organization Model Lists of Essential Medicines, among them life-saving antibiotics, antimalarials and chemotherapy.

In 2014, the Roche Group employed 88,500 people worldwide, invested 8.9 billion Swiss francs in R&D and posted sales of 47.5 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit www.roche.com.

Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.
1910 E. Innovation Park Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85755
US