

UNIT 3 Caring for a terminally ill patient

New Science and Technology devoted to painlessly detecting cervical disease before it becomes cancer and helping to preserve reproductive health.



a Look at the headline and the picture. What kind of machine do you think this is?

- 1 a blood pressure machine
- 2 a scanner
- 3 a blood warming machine

b Read the article about the *GT LightTouch™*. Are these statements True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 The GT LightTouch™ is a machine which is used to check for cancer of the cervix.
- 2 The new machine has not been tested yet.
- 3 The new technology is more accurate than the previous cervical test.
- 4 Cancer of the cervix is a serious problem for all women.

The GT LightTouch™ technology rapidly scans the cervix to identify cancer and **pre-cancer**. The scan is painless and **non-invasive**. The technology distinguishes between normal and diseased tissue by detecting changes at the **cellular** level. Unlike **Pap tests** or HPV tests, the GT LightTouch™ test does not require a tissue sample or laboratory analysis. The test results can be given to patients almost immediately. Studies of the technology began in November 1996 and concluded at the end of 2000. The GT LightTouch™ was compared with the current **cervical** test, the Pap test. Preliminary results from the study showed that the GT LightTouch™ performed

better than the Pap test. The study showed that the GT LightTouch™ detected approximately 46 percent more cervical disease than the Pap test – a statistically significant improvement. According to studies published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease*, the non-invasive GT LightTouch™ test has the potential to be significantly more accurate when compared to **tissue** sample-based tests such as Pap and HPV. According to published reports, cervical cancer is the third most common cancer among women worldwide. **Globally**, there are approximately 471,000 cases of cervical cancer diagnosed annually and approximately 233,000 deaths per year.

C Match the words in bold 1–7 with their meanings a–g.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 pre-cancer | a does not break the skin or enter the body of a patient |
| 2 non-invasive | b around the world |
| 3 cellular | c a test which checks a sample of tissue from the cervix |
| 4 cervical | d a disease which may become cancer if it is not treated |
| 5 Pap test | e collection of cells in the body |
| 6 tissue | f describing cells which are building blocks of the body |
| 7 globally | g describing the cervix or 'neck' of the uterus |

Share your knowledge

- 1 What are the advantages of this technology?
- 2 Are women tested regularly for cancer of the cervix in your country? If so, what test is used?