

## The 8th Conference on Health Care of the Chinese in North America



### Asian PAP Smear Clinic - A Strategy to Address Cultural Barriers in Cervical Cancer Screening

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#### Abstract

Several studies show a higher incidence of invasive cervical cancer in ethnic women. A study by the B.C Cancer Agency in 1990 demonstrated a similar finding for the Chinese women in British Columbia.

The Asian Pap Smear Clinic opened in January 1994 as a joint community project involving S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society), the Vancouver Health Board, the B.C. Women's Health Centre, and the Chinese Canadian Medical Society (B.C.).

This clinic is the first of a number of proposed clinics of its kind, in which cultural and language barriers to cervical cancer screening are addressed. It provides convenient culturally appropriate services by women physicians, nurses and clerical staff.

The clinic serves the Greater Vancouver area and operates out of the centrally located East Health Unit of the Vancouver Health Board. In order to accommodate working women the clinics are held in the evening. Demand for these services have pushed the opening of the clinic from once per month to two to three per month. Fifteen to eighteen women are seen per night.

As this is a screening clinic all patients are required to have a family physician, to whom reports are forwarded for further management. 497 women were screened between January 1994 and December 1995. Recent statistics show that a large number of the women seen at the clinic have never had a previous breast examination. The clinic has therefore expanded its focus to include breast health education and screening.

Statistics will be presented. Educational approaches and anecdotal experiences will be discussed.