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Metropolis Healthcare & Roche introduce HPV DNA testing to accelerate cervical cancer screening

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Metropolis Healthcare has announced its collaboration with Roche Diagnostics India and Neighbouring Markets to introduce the self-sampling human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA test for cervical cancer screening.

The launch of this test aims to expand access to cervical cancer screening across India by addressing social and economic barriers, making early detection more convenient for women, including those in Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 towns.

Cervical cancer is preventable and yet, India contributes to 21% of the world's total cases of cervical cancer. Currently, it accounts for nearly 79,000 deaths among Indian women each year, which is roughly two thirds of diagnosed cases. This indicates late-stage intervention which can be avoided by taking precautionary measures such as early screening.

The HPV DNA test, recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a first-choice screening method for cervical cancer prevention, can help bridge the gap. This cutting-edge test detects 14 high-risk HPV types in a single tube and is a clinically validated, FDA-approved, and WHO-prequalified solution. It ensures reliable and accurate diagnosis, paving the way for early intervention and better outcomes.

The self-sampling HPV DNA test empowers women to take control of their health by enabling them to self-collect their samples for testing comfortably and easily. It addresses significant barriers such as stigma, discomfort, and limited access to healthcare facilities.

Commenting on the launch, Surendran Chemmenkotil, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolis Healthcare said, "Cervical cancer remains a major health challenge for Indian women, despite being preventable through early screening and vaccination. By introducing advanced screening tools like the HPV DNA test, in collaboration with Roche Diagnostics India, we aim to expand access to early detection across the country."

"Our cobas HPV DNA test provides women with a solution that allows them to overcome the potential embarrassment and discomfort that some may feel about undergoing cervical cancer screening process. I am confident that Metropolis Healthcare's vast and established laboratory footprint will allow India to adopt cervical cancer screening at a large scale, especially in underserved areas", said Rishubh Gupta, Managing Director, Roche Diagnostics India and Neighbouring Markets.