

Associated Women's Healthcare, LLP

Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility



8 out of 9 women who develop breast cancer do NOT have an affected mother, sister or daughter.

NEW BREAST CANCER SCREENING

Breast Cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women aged 20 to 59. Our practice has recently learned about a new test to evaluate breast cancer risk. This test is designed to identify women who are at elevated risk for breast cancer, but may not realize it – in fact, 70% of women who get breast cancer have NO identifying risk factors other than age.

The HALO™ Breast Pap Test detects abnormal cells in the milk ducts, where 95% of all breast cancers originate. The test can detect pre-cancerous changes in the breast seven to ten years BEFORE the cancer is seen on mammogram. Mammograms show breast cancers after they have been present in the breast for three to five years. Precancerous changes that are detected can then be followed with more aggressive prevention therapies and screening tests (including medication, MRI's, and life-style changes that can reduce risk – such as avoiding estrogen replacement, decreasing weight, and avoiding alcohol.)

The HALO™ Breast Pap Test takes just five minutes, is noninvasive, and is recommended for women ages 25 and older. A combination of warmth, suction and massage is applied to the breast with a devise similar to a breast pump. About half of women tested will produce breast fluid. This fluid is then analyzed for abnormal cells just like a cervical pap smear. If atypical cells are found in breast fluid, breast cancer risk is increased by up to 5 times. If no fluid is produced, the woman is at low risk. This test does not replace your regular mammogram.

We consider this test to be on the cutting edge of early breast cancer risk assessment and prevention. It is best to have the HALO™ test in the first two weeks after your period. Most patients feel that the test is moderately uncomfortable, but not painful.

This test is so new, insurance companies are not *yet* paying for it. If breast fluid is produced, the samples will be sent to the lab for analysis. In most cases, lab analysis is covered. If not covered, out-of-network, or applied to the deductible, then lab cost is up to \$165.00 per breast in addition to the office cost of \$75.00.

Would you like this test?

- Yes
- No
- Need more information.

Name _____ Date _____

haloinfo

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