

## Case History

### ***HALO Atypia Prompts Woman to Enter Program for High-Risk Patients***

Tracy, 44, had more than the usual reasons to be conscientious about her breast health. Her mother had pre-malignant breast lesions and her mother's identical twin sister had breast cancer.

Tracy's two mammograms prior to her June 2008 well woman exam had both been negative. When Tracy visited her Ob/Gyn for the exam, her physician recommended the HALO® Breast Pap Test to her, telling Tracy that she took it annually to help monitor her own breast health. Tracy decided to take it, as well.

### ***Atypia Leads Ob/Gyn to Refer to Surgeon***

Tracy's right breast secreted nipple aspirate fluid (NAF) during the test, and the pathology report showed mild atypia. That atypia identified Tracy as a patient at high risk for breast cancer. On this basis, her Ob/Gyn referred Tracy to Alice Police, M.D., a breast surgeon whose practice supports NAF testing with HALO and offers a breast cancer prevention program for high-risk patients.

Dr. Police found that Tracy had yet another risk factor: extremely dense breasts, which can also obscure cancer on a mammogram. She ordered three imaging exams for Tracy: a mammogram, an ultrasound, and an MRI. Correlating the results of these exams, Dr. Police concluded that Tracy had abnormalities in both breasts and that the two abnormal areas in the right breast were suspicious for cancer. She recommended surgery to remove the right breast abnormalities.

The surgical pathology report showed that Tracy had three papillomas in her right breast that were benign. Still, Dr. Police felt that Tracy's risk profile including the atypia justified increased monitoring and further testing. She referred Tracy to a genetic counseling program. She also recommended that Tracy be examined and have breast images taken every 6 months, rotating between a mammogram and an MRI. Tracy quickly agreed to follow the recommendations.

### ***Praise from Patient and Physician***

Tracy is grateful for the role HALO played in getting her into a prevention/monitoring program. "I feel fortunate to have been exposed to the HALO test and think it is a proactive and incredibly valuable tool," she says.

Dr. Police believes HALO may have helped save Tracy's life. "HALO was critical in identifying Tracy as a high risk patient," she says. "We're now following her in a high-risk follow-up program and are likely to catch any cancer very early. It is unlikely she will ever die of invasive breast cancer because she will be followed so closely."

Presented by:

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M3-008 (6/09)