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FULLY FRANK

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Healthy sign for women

OVARIAN cancer is one of those sinister diseases that is often not discovered until it has spread and become more difficult to treat.

Which is why a more accurate blood test for the disease has the potential to save many lives as well as being profitable for Melbourne diagnostics developer HealthLinx.

Chief executive Nick Gatsios said a successful Phase 2 biomarker trial on its OvPlex panel had greatly improved accuracy.

The gold standard test delivers around 80 per cent accuracy while OvPlex achieved 94 per cent.

That increased accuracy would improve both diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer.

Nick said trials were continuing and it was hoped a mass screening test could eventually be developed.

Partner ARL Pathology is hoping to offer the test in Australia and New Zealand next year and talks with global groups are continuing.

Nick said ovarian cancer was the fourth largest killer of women in the Western world.

In Australia last year there were 1300 new cases diagnosed and more than 900 deaths reported.

If ovarian cancer is detected and treated early, the survival rate jumps to more than 80 per cent.

Global sales of the latest test are \$280 million a year and growing at more than 5 per cent a year.

HealthLinx shares rose 1.5¢ to 14¢.