



Herald Sun *We're for you*

Melbourne's Kade Chandler and Clayton Oliver celebrate their win over Hawthorn, while Bulldogs captain Marcus Bontempelli ponders a shock loss to West Coast yesterday. Pictures: Michael Klein, Getty



EVERY FINALS SCENARIO

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UMPIRE FARCE: AFL SORRY, BUT CROWS MUST COP IT SPORT

Roos star 'king-hit'

Jackie Epstein
Regan Hodge



Jack Ziebell

North Melbourne champion Jack Ziebell was coward punched before being brutally kicked by thugs as he lay bleeding on the ground outside a South Yarra bar where he was celebrating his retirement. Police were looking for three men responsible for Saturday night's "unprovoked attack" outside The Osborne Rooftop and Bar that left Ziebell needing surgery for a suspected broken nose.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 5



ENGLISH PAIN AS SPAIN REIGNS

WORLD CUP FINAL, SPORT

DREAMS SAVIOUR

EXCLUSIVE Test to save lives & protect fertility of 9 in 10 women needing ovarian cancer check

Robyn Riley

A Melbourne discovery on ovarian cancer is set to prevent women from unnecessarily having their ovaries removed and losing their fertility. The blood test, developed by the

Hudson Institute of Medical Research, will also improve treatment of the disease.

The test determines whether a woman has a non-malignant condition or cancer before surgery. **FULL REPORT, PAGE 7**

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A lifesaver & hope giver

Major breakthrough in ovarian cancer fight

EXCLUSIVE
Robyn Riley

Medical editor

A Melbourne discovery on ovarian cancer is set to prevent women from unnecessarily having their ovaries removed and losing their fertility.

The simple blood test, developed by the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, will also improve treatment of the disease that kills more than 1000 Australian women every year.

Doctors will be able to use the blood test to determine whether a woman has a non-malignant condition such as an ovarian cyst – which is not life-threatening – or cancer before surgery. Nine out of 10 patients who undergo the surgery – the

only way to currently detect – do not have cancer.

The test is expected to be available within two years.

It is the first major advance in developing a diagnostic tool for the gynaecological cancer.

Until now there has been no reliable test; ovarian cancer is notoriously difficult to diagnose because of its often “vague” symptoms.

This means many women do not present until the cancer is advanced, which can be why the five-year survival rate is less than half, a statistic that has not changed in 50 years.

The new test, called the

CLEO surgical triage test, is the result of a discovery at the Hudson Institute, work funded for more than a decade by the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. The test looks for a biomarker in the blood called CXCL10, which is the discovery of scientist Andrew Stephens.

Dr Stephens said this biomarker was produced early and at high levels by ovarian cancers, but not in non-malignant disease.

“One of the biggest problems, apart from our ability to detect ovarian cancer, is distinguishing what is a cancer and what is a non-malignant condi-

tion such as an ovarian cyst,” he said.

Dr Stephens said the current practice was for all patients who had the specific CA125 marker to undergo surgery in order to diagnose – which typically involved the removal of any suspicious mass and often other tissues, including ovaries.

“About nine out of 10 times the removed mass will be benign, a cyst or similar,” he said. “The consequence is instant menopause for premenopausal women, which also comes with increased health risks such as cardiac disease, stroke and osteoporosis.”

Dr Stephens is also the chief scientific officer of Australian company Cleo Diagnostics, which will commercialise the CLEO surgical Triage Test and is due to list on the stock exchange on Tuesday.

Lawyer Amelia Higgs says the news of an ovarian cancer triage test is great for women in the future, but admits it has also made her feel “emotional”. A year ago, as she and partner Dylan Oswin were planning a family, Ms Higgs, 35, discovered she had borderline complex ovarian cysts.

During surgery, just three weeks after her first GP visit,



Amelia Higgs

both ovaries were removed, ending her dreams of having a biological child.

“I didn’t have time to consider options like harvesting eggs so I lost my fertility,” she said. “Had that test been available earlier I guess there would have been the option of trying to do that.”

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Herald Sun

EDITORIAL

Cancer advance is promising

Early detection is the key for fighting cancer, offering the best chance of beating the disease and extending life.

Whether it be breast, bowel, lung, liver, blood or brain cancer, that early diagnosis is vital for effective intervention.

Sadly, in a range of cancers, the rates of early detection are not where they need to be.

For ovarian cancer – the 10th-most common cancer in Australia – only about 20 per cent of cases are identified early.

But as detailed in today's Herald Sun, hope is on the horizon courtesy of a promising blood test developed in Melbourne.

The breakthrough discovery enables specialists to accurately "triage" ovarian cancer and is expected to be available in Australia within two years.

Due to the lack of clear early symptoms, some 70 per cent of ovarian cancer cases are not identified until the disease is at an advanced stage, when it may have already spread to other parts of the body.

More than 1800 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year and, tragically, some 1000 lives are lost.

Shockingly, only 49 per cent of those diagnosed with ovarian cancer survive more than five years after diagnosis.

The new blood screen trial, developed by the Hudson Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, aims to increase detection rates for

ovarian cancer using what is called the CLEO surgical triage test, which the developers say is a major step in the development of an accurate diagnostic tool.

To date, no early diagnostic test has been accurate, with cervical smear assessments not always picking up the condition.

And while a genetic predisposition is associated with a small number of cases, the cause of the overwhelming majority remains unknown.

Hudson's research, funded for more than a decade by the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, is based on the discovery of a novel biomarker in the blood called CXCL10, first identified by scientist Andrew Stephens.

Dr Stephens said the biomarker was a key signal to identify because it is produced early and at high levels by ovarian cancers, but not in non-malignant disease.

"One of the biggest problems, apart from our ability to detect ovarian cancer, is distinguishing what is a cancer and what is a non-malignant condition such as an ovarian cyst, which is not life-threatening," he says.

OCRf chief executive officer Robin Penty said through ongoing community support, it was proud to have nurtured the research from the lab through to its commercialisation phase.

The plan over the next two years aims to build a blood test, validate it and launch clinical triage use in 2025.

It can be a life saver.