

## Gynecological Specimen Collection

### Principle

The detection of cervical cancer and its precursors as well as other gynecologic abnormalities is the primary purpose of obtaining a cervical cell sample. To this end, it is important to obtain a specimen that is not obscured by blood, mucus, inflammatory exudates or lubricant.

### Required Labeling

1. Please remember to label the slide or vial with the patient's full name. The laboratory cannot accept a Pap specimen without positive identification on the label.
2. For conventional smears, use **pencil** to label the frosted end of the slide. Never use ink on the slide.

### Required Requisition Information

1. For Medicare, you must include an ICD-9 code indicating reason for testing (low-risk screen, high-risk screen, or diagnostic test).
2. Indicate gynecological testing requested. To order a Pap test, you must select one of the following:
  - Conventional Pap Smear Slide**
  - Liquid Based Pap Test**

If you are sending a liquid based specimen, you may select one or more of the following tests, if desired:

- HPV Testing (Regardless of Pap result)**
- Reflex HPV DNA if Pap ASCUS**
- Reflex HPV DNA if Pap ASCUS or Negative**
- HPV 16, 18/45 if Pap Negative, HPV positive**
- HPV 16, 18/45 if HPV positive, regardless of Pap**
- Chlamydia trachomatis PCR**
- GC PCR**

These tests will be performed from the liquid-based vial. HPV testing may be requested up to 30 days from date of collection. Chlamydia/GC testing must be ordered at the time of collection.

3. Source of specimen (vaginal, cervical, endocervical, etc.)
4. Date of patient's last menstrual period.
5. Result of last Pap test.
6. Pap test history previous to the last Pap test.

## **Conventional Pap Smear**

### ***Materials Required***

1-3 Pap smear holders  
1-3 Frosted-end slides  
1-2 Cytospatulas (Ayre spatula)  
1 Cytobrush  
Spray fixative

### ***Patient Preparation***

The patient should not be menstruating (a mid-cycle smear is preferred). The patient should not use vaginal medication, vaginal contraceptives, personal lubricants or douches during the 48 hours before the exam.

1. If desired, use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water-soluble gel lubricant sparingly applied to posterior blade of the speculum can be used if necessary.
2. Gently remove excess mucus or other discharge present with a cotton swab before taking the sample. The cervix should not be cleaned by washing with saline or it may result in a relatively acellular specimen.

Note: The sample should be obtained before the application of acetic acid.

### ***Procedure: Routine Vaginal Smear***

Scrape material from vaginal pool with cytospatula. Smear material on clean glass slide bearing patient identification. (See figure 1.) Spray-fix immediately. Allow smears to dry on the slide before closing the cardboard holder.

### ***Procedure: Cervical Smear***

With a second cytospatula, using a rotary motion, sample the entire 360 degrees of the cervix. Smear material on clean glass slide bearing patient identification (See figure 1.) Spray-fix immediately. Allow smears to dry on the slide before closing the cardboard holder.

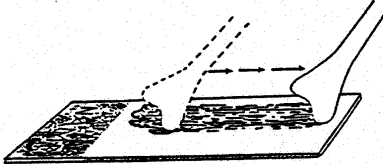
### ***Procedure: Endocervical Smear***

With the cytobrush, using a rotary motion, sample the endocervical canal. Smear material on a clean glass slide bearing patient identification. (See figure 1.) Spray-fix immediately. Allow smears to dry on the slide before closing the cardboard holder.

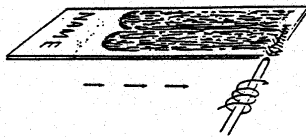
Store/Transport specimens at room temperature.

# Conventional Pap Smear Sample Protocol

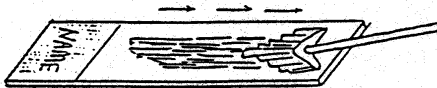
## Transferring the Sample(s) to the Slide



To transfer material from the spatula: Smear sample with a single stroke motion using moderate pressure to thin out clumps of cellular and mucus material. Avoid excessive force or manipulation which will damage cells.



To transfer material from the brush: Roll the bristles across the slide by twirling the brush handle.



To transfer material from the broom: Smear sample with a painting action, using both sides of the broom.

*Figure 1*

## **Monolayer (Thinprep) Pap Test**

### ***Materials Required***

- 1 PreservCyt vial
- 1 Cytospatula/Cytobrush or Broom

### ***Patient Preparation***

The patient should not be menstruating (a mid-cycle smear is preferred). The patient should not use vaginal medication, vaginal contraceptives, personal lubricants or douches during the 48 hours before the exam.

1. If desired, use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water-soluble gel lubricant sparingly applied to posterior blade of the speculum can be used if necessary.
2. Gently remove excess mucus or other discharge present with a cotton swab before taking the sample. The cervix should not be cleaned by washing with saline or it may result in a relatively acellular specimen.

Note: The sample should be obtained before the application of acetic acid.

### ***Procedure - Brush/Spatula Protocol***

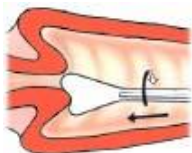
1. Open the PreservCyt vial.
2. With the cytospatula, sample the entire 360 degrees of the cervix, using a rotary motion.
3. Rinse the spatula as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt solution by swirling the spatula vigorously in the vial 10 times. Discard the spatula.
4. With the cytobrush, insert the brush into the cervix until only the bottom-most fibers are exposed. Slowly rotate  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn in one direction. DO NOT OVER-ROTATE.
5. Rinse the brush as quickly as possible in the PreservCyt solution by rotating the brush in the solution 10 times while pushing against the vial wall. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. Discard the brush.
6. Tighten the cap on the vial so that the torque line on the cap (black line) passes the torque line on the vial (black line).
7. Record the patient's name and ID number on the vial.
8. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport.
9. Store/Transport specimens at room temperature.

***Procedure - Broom Protocol***

1. Open the PreservCyt vial.
2. With the broom, insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal until the shorter bristles are in contact with the ectocervix. Slowly rotate the broom in a clockwise direction 5 times.
3. Rinse the broom as quickly as possible in the PreservCyt solution by pushing the broom into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. Discard the broom.
4. Tighten the cap on the vial so that the torque line on the cap (black line) passes the torque line on the vial (black line).
5. Record the patient's name and ID number on the vial.
6. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport.
7. Store/Transport specimens at room temperature.

## Brush/Spatula Protocol

### ThinPrep® Pap Test Quick Reference Guide – Endocervical Brush/Spatula Protocol



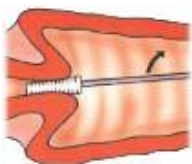
#### Obtain...

...an adequate sampling from the ectocervix using a plastic spatula. If desired, use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water-soluble gel lubricant sparingly applied to the posterior blade of the speculum can be used if necessary.



#### Rinse...

...the spatula as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt® Solution vial by swirling the spatula vigorously in the vial 10 times. Discard the spatula.



#### Obtain...

...an adequate sampling from the endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert the brush into the cervix until only the bottommost fibers are exposed. Slowly rotate 1/4 or 1/2 turn in one direction. **DO NOT OVER-ROTATE.**



#### Rinse...

...the brush as quickly as possible in the PreservCyt Solution by rotating the device in the solution 10 times while pushing against the PreservCyt vial wall. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. Discard the brush.



#### Tighten...

...the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.



#### Record...

...the patient's name and ID number on the vial.

...the patient information and medical history on the cytology requisition form.



#### Place...

...the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory. Store and Transport at room temperature.

## ***Broom-Like Device Protocol***

ThinPrep® Pap Test Quick Reference Guide: Broom-Like Device Protocol

### **Obtain...**

...an adequate sampling from the cervix using a broom-like device. If desired, use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water-soluble gel lubricant sparingly applied to the posterior blade of the speculum can be used if necessary. Insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal deep enough to allow the shorter bristles to fully contact the ectocervix. Push gently, and rotate the broom in a clockwise direction five times.

### **Rinse...**

...the broom as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt® Solution vial by pushing the broom into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. As a final step, swirl the broom vigorously to further release material. Discard the collection device.

### **Tighten...**

...the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.

### **Record...**

...the patient's name and ID number on the vial.

...the patient information and medical history on the cytology requisition form.

### **Place...**

...the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory. Store and transport at room temperature.