

Blanchard Valley Health System

Blanchard Valley Hospital

1900 South Main Street, Findlay, OH 45840

Laboratory Services

Collection of Thin Prep PAP Smears (LTR32720)

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COLLECTION OF THINPREP PAP SMEARS

PRINCIPLE

Pap smears offer an easy and accurate way of detecting pre-cancerous lesions of the cervix and to a lesser extent of the endometrium and ovary. Vaginal smears may be used to gain helpful information regarding hormonal status. Pap smears also aid in the detection of certain infections such as *Trichomonas vaginalis*, fungal agents, Chlamydia, and some viruses such as Condyloma acuminatum or Herpes simplex.

The ThinPrep processor was introduced by Cytyc (Hologic) Corporation in 1991. The ThinPrep process filters out a portion of non-diagnostic debris (primarily blood and mucus which can obscure cellular detail) while retaining important diagnostic cells and infectious agents. Studies have shown that cervical samples prepared by the ThinPrep process result in a slide that is more easily read and interpreted than a conventional Pap smear.

POLICY

The following procedure provides guidelines for the proper collection, preservation, and transport of ThinPrep Pap smear specimens to the Cytology Department. It pertains to specimens that are submitted for cytologic evaluation only. If other tests are required (e.g., gram stain, cultures), please refer to the Lab Collection Manual or contact the laboratory department concerned for instructions regarding their specific needs for specimen collection.

SPECIMEN

Patient preparation: Per attending Physician or authorized agent

Type: Thin Prep Pap smears (cervical, endocervical, and/or vaginal smear)

Handling Conditions: If possible, smears should be taken at mid-cycle (menstrual smears are not preferred). The patient should be instructed not to douche for 24 hour before the smear is to be taken.

1. For specimens collected within the BVH network, use "orders +add" in the main menu of Power Chart to request cytology testing. Enter Pathology Pap Smear Request in the search box and complete the required fields in yellow (i.e. gyn specimen source, clinical information, LMP, routine screening or follow-up exam, hormones, pregnant, post-partum, hysterectomy, post-menopausal, and additional comments if applicable) at the bottom of the screen. The gyn specimen description drop-down menu allows the user to select from the following options: Liquid Prep (Pap smear only), Liquid Prep with HPV, Liquid Prep reflex ASCUS, Liquid Prep with GC/Chlamydia, Liquid Prep with HPV and with GC/Chlamydia, and Liquid Prep reflex ASCUS and with GC/Chlamydia. Since GC/Chlamydia testing is included in the preceding list of options, there is no need to place

a separate GC/Chlamydia order for testing from the ThinPrep Pap vial. When finished, be sure to sign the order by using the sign button in the bottom right corner of the screen. Retrieve the specimen label (if available) from the designated printer and place it on the ThinPrep Pap vial. If no specimen label is available, please write the following information on the ThinPrep vial: patient name, date of birth, date and time of collection, and the collector's initials.

For Pap specimens collected outside of the BVH network (i.e. non-BVH owned physician offices), properly complete a gyn requisition form. Be sure to indicate the source of the specimen (e.g. cervical scraping, endocervical brushing, or vaginal scraping) and whether the Pap is a routine screening or a follow-up due to a previous abnormal. The patient's date of birth, LMP (last menstrual period) date, and pertinent clinical information are also very important for an accurate diagnosis. Also, please include a copy of the patient's insurance information and/or insurance card whenever possible. If HPV and/or GC/Chlamydia testing is required, please mark the appropriate line(s) in the lower left corner of the requisition form.

2. Identification Needed: All requisitions must be properly completed with the following information: patient name, address, birth date, social security number, specimen collection date, and name of attending Physician or authorized agent. Label the vial of PreservCyt solution with the patient's name, date of birth, the specimen collection date and time, and the collector's initials.
3. Collected by: Attending Physician or authorized agent.
4. Transportation: ThinPrep Pap vials and cytology requisition forms should be delivered to the Cytology Department at the earliest convenience.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Equipment: Per Attending Physician or authorized agent

Materials: Available from the Cytology Department upon request. Vials of PreservCyt Solution for the ThinPrep Pap Test, plastic spatulas and endocervical brushes or plastic broom-like devices.

Please do not use a wooden cervical scraper or a cotton tip applicator to collect the specimen.

PROCEDURE

The ThinPrep processor is approved for use with cervical specimens collected with either a broom-like device or an endocervical brush/plastic spatula combination. Please note that lubricating jelly *should not* be used during Pap smear collection if at all possible. When necessary, it should be used very sparingly. K-Y lubricating jelly is the only brand recommended for use during Pap smear collection by Hologic Corporation.

I. SPECIMEN COLLECTION WITH A PLASTIC BROOM-LIKE DEVICE:

The plastic broom-like device is designed to collect both ectocervical and endocervical cells from the cervix as follows:

1. Remove the lid from the vial of PreservCyt solution.
2. To obtain an adequate sample, insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal deep enough to allow the shorter bristles to fully contact the ectocervix.

3. Push gently and rotate the broom five times in one direction.
4. Rinse the sample off of the broom in PreservCyt solution. Push the broom against the bottom of the vial ten times, forcing the bristles to bend apart.
5. As a final step, hold the broom between the thumb and forefinger and swirl it vigorously to further release cervical material. DO NOT leave the head of the broom in the PreservCyt vial.
6. Discard the broom and replace the lid on the PreservCyt solution vial. Tighten the lid until the black torque on the lid passes the black torque line on the vial.

II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION WITH A PLASTIC SPATULA AND ENDOCERVICAL BRUSH COMBINATION:

The plastic spatula is used to sample the ectocervix while the endocervical brush samples the endocervix.

1. Remove the lid from the vial of PreservCyt solution.
2. Obtain a sample from the ectocervix by using the plastic spatula.
3. Rinse the spatula in PreservCyt solution by swirling it in the vial several times. Discard the spatula in the appropriate refuse container.
4. Obtain a sample from the endocervix by inserting the brush into the endocervical canal until only the bottom bristles are exposed.
5. Rotate the brush 1/4 to 1/2 turn in one direction to minimize bleeding. Be careful not to over-rotate the brush.
6. Rinse the brush in the same vial of PreservCyt solution as the spatula. Press the bristles of the brush against the wall of the vial while stirring the solution ten times.
7. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release cellular material. Discard the brush in the appropriate refuse container. DO NOT leave any portion of the brush in the PreservCyt vial.
8. Replace the lid on the PreservCyt solution vial. Tighten the lid until the black torque line on the lid passes the black torque line on the vial.

REPORTING RESULTS

Reports are generally issued within three working days of specimen receipt in the department. If there are any questions, please feel free to call the cytology department at ext. 55814 and speak with a Cytotechnologist or a Pathologist regarding this procedure.

REFERENCE

"The ThinPrep Pap test: Clear and Simple" Physician Training Video, Cytoc Corporation, 1997.

