

Specimen Collection and Preparation for Cytopathology.

Laboratory test results are dependent on the quality of the specimen submitted. It is important that all specimens and request forms be properly labeled with the name of the patient, date of birth, collection date, time, original collector's initials, and the origin (source) of the specimen, when applicable. Specimens must have two patient identifiers (patient's name must be one of them); without these the specimen cannot be processed.

If there is any doubt or question regarding how the specimen should be collected, it is imperative that Sky Lakes Pathology Services be called to clarify the order and specimen requirement.

Gynecological Specimen Collection:

Papette Broom and Cytobrush: Do not use Cytobrush on pregnant patient or for endometrial sampling. Collect cervical or endocervical specimen with a Papette brush (broom). Insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal deep enough to allow the shorter bristles to fully contact the ectocervix. Rotate broom 5 times in a clockwise direction.

Rinse brush in ThinPrep pap vial by pushing the brush into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. Discard the collection device and tighten vial cap so torque line on cap passes torque line on vial.

Spatula and Cytobrush: Select contoured end of plastic spatula and rotate 360° around entire exocervix while maintaining tight contact with exocervical surface. Rinse contoured end of spatula in ThinPrep Pap vial by swirling vigorously 10 times. Discard spatula. Cap vial. Insert Cytobrush into the endocervix until only the bottom-most bristles are exposed at the outside. Slowly rotate ¼ to ½ turn in one direction. Do not over-rotate. Rinse the Cytobrush in the ThinPrep Pap vial by rotating the device in the solution 10 times while pushing it against the wall of the vial. Swirl the device vigorously to further release material. Discard Cytobrush. Tighten vial cap so torque line on cap passes torque line on vial. **Note:** Do not leave collection devices in the ThinPrep vial.

HPV Testing

HPV testing can be ordered on Pap (cervical/vaginal) specimens collected in a ThinPrep® PreservCyt® Solution. HPV testing ordered in conjunction with the Pap test will be resulted on the same report and will be billed separately. HPV testing added after the Pap result has been released will be reported and billed separately.

HPV Reflexive Testing

Performed only when the requisition is marked with reflex HPV on ASCUS.

HPV Non-Reflexive Testing

Performed regardless of results. To order, check the 'HPV' box on the requisition, or write in "HPV Regardless".

Handling:

Label ThinPrep™ vial with the patients' name, date of birth, and physician.

Transport:

Ambient temperature.

Rejection Criteria:

ThinPrep vial past expiration date; no specimen collected; unlabeled or mislabeled specimen. Specimens will be held until corrected by responsible party.

Storage:

Store PreservCyt Solution *with* cytologic sample intended for ThinPrep Pap testing between 15° C (59° F) and 30° C (86° F) for up to six weeks.

Store PreservCyt Solution *without* cytologic sample between 15° C (59° F) and 30° C (86° F). Do not use beyond the expiration date printed on the container.

Performed:

Monday-Friday

Non-Gynecological Specimen Collection:

Urine, Renal Pelvic Washings & Bladder Washings

Urine specimens without fixative should be sent directly to the laboratory or refrigerated if any delay is anticipated. Unfixed refrigerated urine is suitable for cytological examination for 24 hours. If specimens cannot be refrigerated or if a long delay in transport is anticipated, the specimen should be collected in an equal volume of cytology fixative (Cytolyt®) available from the Sky Lakes Medical Center 541-274-6243.

Voided Urine

- Patient collects specimen. Be sure all specimens are collected "clean catch" and in properly labeled containers. Make sure to note that specimen is voided urine.
- *For optimal cytological evaluation of urine, first-voided morning specimens should not be used.*
- Send immediately to the cytology laboratory with completed requisition.
- If specimen cannot be sent immediately to the cytology laboratory, please refrigerate.
- An alternative (especially if a delay in transport to the laboratory is anticipated) is to collect the specimen in an equal volume of cytology fixative (Cytolyt®) available

from the Sky Lakes Medical Center 541-274-6243.

Formalin is never an appropriate cytology fixative.

Catheterized Urine

- Specimen is collected by physician or nursing staff in a clean, properly labeled container and sent immediately to the Cytology Laboratory with completed requisition. Make sure to note that specimen is catheterized urine.
- An alternative (especially if a delay in transport to the laboratory is anticipated) is to collect the specimen in an equal volume of cytology fixative (CytoLyt®) available from the Sky Lakes Medical Center 541-274-6243.

Formalin is never an appropriate cytology fixative.

Renal Pelvic and Bladder Washings

- Using normal saline, the washing specimen is collected by a physician in a clean specimen container.
- Label container with name, and body site (specifically designate right or left pelvic washing).
- Send immediately to the laboratory with a completed requisition.
- Indicate that the specimen is a washing.
- If a delay in transport is expected, add an equal volume of Cytology fixative (obtainable from the lab) to the specimen.

Formalin is never an appropriate cytology fixative.

Tzanck Smear

- Identify a fresh typical vesicle.
- Unroof the vesicle.
- Scrape the margin of the vesicle with a scalpel blade.
- Spread the cells and debris adherent to the blade on a clean, labeled, glass slide.
- Fix immediately with Cytology spray fixative (hold aerosol spray four to six inches from slide and apply for one or two seconds) or place the slide into a bath of 95% alcohol.
- Place slides in carrier and send slide(s) and requisition to the laboratory.

Nipple Discharge

- Express secretion by gently compressing the full circumference of the areola between thumb and index finger. When a mass is palpable, the area between the mass and nipple may be compressed.
- Smear secretion on a clean, labeled, glass slide. If secretion is scanty, the slide may be touched to the nipple. If secretion is thick, it may be smeared between two slides. Spray slide(s) with Cytology fixative immediately (hold aerosol spray four to six inches from slide and apply for one to two seconds). (Alternatively, place the slide immediately into a bath of 95% alcohol to fix cells.)
- Place slides in carrier and send to Cytology lab with completed requisition.

Handling:

Label container with the patients' name, date of birth and physician. Slides should be transported in a slide holder.

Minimum Volume:

1 mLs of fluid.

Storage:

For any body fluids containing a fixative, ambient temperature is acceptable for storage.

Any Transport:

Ambient temperature if specimen contains fixative. NON-Gynecological specimens without fixative must be transported within 2 hours.

Rejection Criteria:

Unlabeled, mislabeled or specimens that have been ambient longer than 2 hours or broken slides