

GenPap ThinPrep Collection Instructions



The detection of cervical cancer and its precursors as well as other gynecologic abnormalities is the primary purpose of obtaining a cervical cell sample. The following guidelines are referenced from CLSI Document GP15-A3¹ and are recommended in the collection process for obtaining a ThinPrep Pap test specimen.

Specimen Collection Preparation

- Lukewarm water may be used to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water-soluble gel lubricant sparingly applied to the posterior blade of the speculum can be used if necessary.
 - Lubricant jellies used in excessive amounts may compromise the test and possibly lead to an unsatisfactory result.
- Gently remove excess mucus or other discharge with a cotton swab before taking the sample.
 - Excess cervical mucus, inflammatory exudates and blood is essentially devoid of meaningful cellular material and when present in the sample vial may yield little or no diagnostic material.
- Cervix should not be cleaned with saline or it may result in a relatively acellular specimen.
- Sample should be obtained before the application of acetic acid.
- The speculum should be either disposable or adequately sterilized.

Preparing the Patient

- The patient should be tested 2 weeks after the first day of her last menstrual period, and definitely not when she is menstruating.
 - Even though the ThinPrep reduces obscuring blood, clinical studies have demonstrated that excessive amounts of blood may still compromise the test and possibly lead to an unsatisfactory result.²
- For 48 hours prior to the exam advise patients to³:
 - Refrain from sexual intercourse
 - Avoid vaginal medication, personal lubricants, vaginal contraceptives, and douches.

Preparing Samples



It is important to obtain a specimen that is not obscured by blood, mucus, inflammatory exudate or lubricant.

Specimen Collection

Pap Smear Collection Protocol

(Cervical Sample - should be collected with either a spatula and a brush or a broom-like device)

Spatula and Brush Collection Devices

1. Obtain an adequate sampling from the ectocervix using a plastic spatula.
2. 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.**
3. Obtain an adequate sampling from the endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert the brush into the cervix until only the bottom-most fibers are exposed. Slowly rotate 1/4 or 1/2 turn in one direction.
DO NOT OVER-ROTATE.
4. 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.**
5. Tighten the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.
6. Record the patient's name and ID number on the vial, and the patient information and medical history on the cytology requisition form.
7. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory.

The Broom-like Collection Device

1. Obtain an adequate sampling from the cervix using a broom-like device. 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.
2. 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 BROOM.**
3. Tighten the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.
4. Record the patient's name and ID number on the vial, and the patient information and medical history on the cytology requisition form.
5. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory.

STI Protocol (Vaginal Sample)

After obtaining Pap sample, please use a sterile polyester tipped swab to isolate organisms from the vagina.

1. Obtain an adequate sampling from vagina using a sterile polyester tipped swab.
2. Rinse the swab as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt Solution vial. **DISCARD THE SWAB.**

STI Lesion Protocol (Lesion Sample)

If an STI Lesion Profile is ordered with a Pap and/or vaginal STI sample, a separate ThinPrep vial in which to collect the STI lesion sample is needed.

DO NOT put the STI lesion sample in the vial with the Pap or with the STI vaginal sample. When taking sample from a lesion, please use the following instructions:

1. Vesicles/pustules should be unroofed. Vigorously swab the base of the lesion with a sterile polyester tipped swab.
2. If an ulcer is being tested, squeeze the lesion 3 or 4 times then vigorously rub the base of the ulcer with a sterile polyester tipped swab.
3. If the lesion is crusted, clean it first with a sterile saline solution and vigorously rub with a sterile polyester tipped swab.
4. Swirl the swab vigorously in the PreservCyt Solution. **DISCARD THE SWAB.**
5. Tighten the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.
6. Record the patient's name and ID number on the vial, and the patient information and medical history on the cytology requisition form.
7. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory.

DO NOT LEAVE THE TIP OF THE COLLECTION INSTRUMENT IN THE VIAL.

DISCARD THE COLLECTION INSTRUMENT (BRUSH, SPATULA, BROOM OR SWAB).

