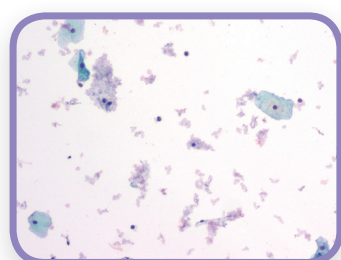


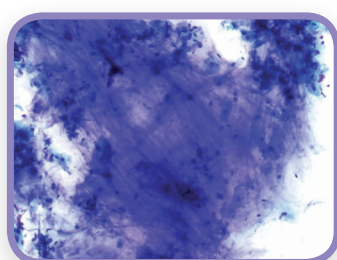
ThinPrep[®]: Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) Specimen Collection

Training bulletin

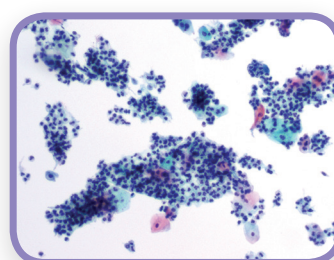
The detection of human papillomavirus, cervical disease and its precursors as well as other gynaecological abnormalities is the primary purpose of obtaining a cervical cell sample. Therefore it is important to obtain a specimen that is not obscured by blood, mucous, inflammatory exudate or lubricant.



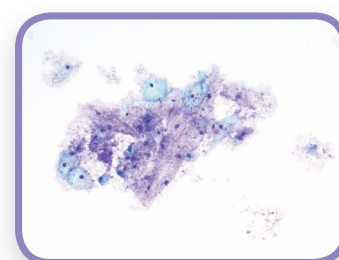
Unsatisfactory
specimen obscured
by blood



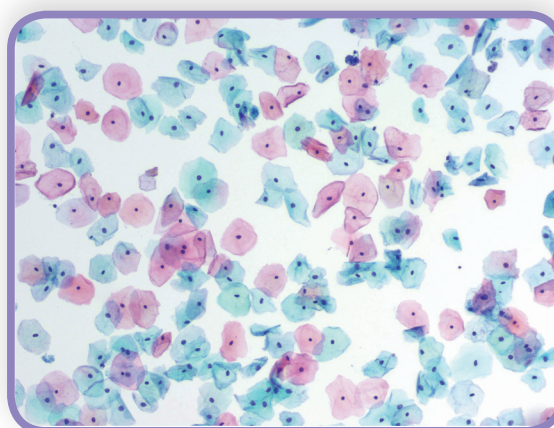
Unsatisfactory
specimen obscured by
mucous



Unsatisfactory
specimen obscured by
inflammation



Unsatisfactory
specimen obscured by
lubricant



Satisfactory
ThinPrep Test specimen

Patient information

- 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.¹
- The patient should not use vaginal medication, vaginal contraceptives, or vaginal lavages for 48 hours before the exam.
- The patient should refrain from intercourse 48 hours prior to the exam.²

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Specimen collection preparation

Prepare the speculum

For patients without physical or physiological need for lubricant, use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water lubrication has the fewest risks to the quality of the sample collected.

When necessary, sparingly apply carbomer-free lubricant on the exterior of the speculum blades

If lubricant is necessary due to patient discomfort or the use of a plastic speculum, sparingly apply a thin film of carbomer-free lubricant on the speculum's surface, avoiding the tip. Do not use an excessive amount of lubricant to lubricate the speculum.

Hologic® evaluated a variety of popular lubricants and found those containing carbomer or carbopol polymers (thickening agents) may interfere with obtaining a representative cervical sample or cause artifact in the alcohol-based transport medium. Hologic recognises the varying availability of different types of lubricants and recommends that, if used, any lubricant should be applied sparingly.

Please contact your local Hologic representative or your pathology provider for more information on compatible lubricants.

What do I do if the vial is knocked over?

If the vial is knocked over after the sample has been taken, look to see if any fluid still remains in the vial. If about one third of the fluid still remains in the vial, then the vial can still be sent to the lab for processing. Make a note on the request form to inform the laboratory of the sample spillage. Do not 'top up' the vial from a new vial as the lab will make any necessary level adjustments.

Can I take a ThinPrep sample if the patient is menstruating?

No. Peri-menstrual samples should be avoided.

Can I use the cervical sampler where there is stenosis of the os?

It is still possible to use the cervical sampler however an endocervical brush may also be used at the discretion of the practitioner. Both sampling devices should be rinsed in the same patient vial.

Can I use the cervical sampler for vault samples?

Yes. You can use the cervical sampler to take vault samples. The device should be applied by using a sweeping action. Do not use the spatula/brush combination for vault samples.

Can I use the cervical sampler or spatula/brush combination if there is an extensive ectropion area?

Yes. You can use these devices when there is an extensive ectropion area. Collect the sample using a circular sweeping action.

Do I need to take a separate sample for molecular testing (HPV, CT/GC, TV, M.gen)?

No. Certain molecular tests can be performed from the same material collected for the ThinPrep Test. Refer to the ThinPrep package insert for more information.

Do's and Don'ts:

- Do** collect the sample before the application of acetic acid
- Do** keep the unlabelled portion of the sample vial free of labels so that the liquid contents can be seen
- Do not** use an endocervical brush in isolation
- Do not** use the endocervical brush during pregnancy
- Do not** apply any physician bar-coded labels vertically on the vial, apply them horizontally
- Do not** place multiple labels on the outside of the vial
- Do not** apply any labels over the lid of the container
- Do not** leave the collection device sitting in the vial whilst attending to the patient
- Do not** clean the cervix by washing with saline or it may result in an acellular specimen
- Do not** detach the head of the sampling device in to the vial

1. Lee, et al. Comparison of Conventional Papanicolaou Smears and a Fluid-Based, Thin-Layer System for Cervical Cancer Screening. *Obstet Gynecol.* 1997;90(2):278-84.

2. Saslow D, et al. American Cancer Society guideline for the early detection of cervical neoplasia and cancer. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2002;52:342-62

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