Liquid Based Cytology Collection: Quick Reference Guide

ThinPrep® Pap Test
Instructions for direct to vial specimen collection

Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) is now MBS-listed as an interim arrangement until the renewed National Cervical Screening Program commences (Item 73069). For each patient a rebate is payable for one cytology test – either LBC or the conventional Pap test. For optimal specimen collection with the ThinPrep Pap test, please follow the instructions below.

ThinPrep Pap Test Plastic Spatula and Endocervical Brush Protocol

- Prepare all equipment before starting the procedure.
- Note expiry date on sample collection vial. Do not use expired vials.
- Ensure the entire plastic seal is removed from the lid of the vial and discarded.
- Remove the lid from the vial before taking the sample.
- If lubrication of the speculum is required, please use warm water. The use of lubricant may interfere with pathology tests. However, if necessary a small amount of water-soluble carbomer-free lubricant should be applied sparingly to the outer portion of the speculum only, avoiding the tip.
- Do not use an endocervical brush during pregnancy
- Do not use an endocervical brush in isolation

Record the patient’s full name and date of birth on the vial as required by local regulations. The patient information and medical history should be recorded on the pathology request form.

Obtain an adequate sample from the ectocervix using a plastic spatula. Select the contoured end of the plastic spatula and rotate it 360º in a clockwise direction around the entire ectocervix, while maintaining tight contact with ectocervical surface.

Rinse the plastic spatula immediately into the vial by swirling the spatula vigorously in the vial 10 times. Discard the plastic spatula.

Obtain an adequate sampling from the endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert the Cytobrush into the endocervical canal until only the bottom-most bristles are exposed. Slowly rotate 1/4 or 1/2 turn in one direction. Do not over-rotate the brush.

Rinse the endocervical brush immediately in the same vial by rotating the device in the solution 10 times while pushing it against the vial wall. As a final step, 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. Do not over-tighten. Place the vial and pathology request form in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory.

Note: Certain molecular tests, such as HPV, CT/GC, TV, M.gen, can be performed from the same material collected for the ThinPrep Pap Test. Contact your laboratory for more information.

www.thinprep.com.au
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ThinPrep Pap Test Cervical Sampler Broom protocol

- Prepare all equipment before starting the procedure.
- Note expiry date on sample collection vial. Do not use expired vials.
- Ensure the entire plastic seal is removed from the lid of the vial and discarded.
- Remove the lid from the vial before taking the sample.
- If lubrication of the speculum is required, please use warm water.
  The use of lubricant may interfere with pathology tests. However, if necessary a small amount of water-soluble carboxomer-free lubricant should be applied sparingly to the outer portion of the speculum only, avoiding the tip.
- An endocervical brush may also be used in combination with the cervical sampler at the discretion of the practitioner. Both sampling devices should be rinsed in the same patient vial.

**Record** the patient’s full name and date of birth on the vial as required by local regulations. The patient information and medical history should be recorded on the pathology request form.

**Obtain** an adequate sample from the transformation zone of the cervix using a cervical sampler (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 brush 360° in a clockwise direction 3–5 times.

**Rinse** the cervical sampler immediately into the vial by pushing it into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. As a final step, swirl the brush **vigorously** to further release material. Visually inspect the cervical sampler to ensure that no material remains attached. Discard the collection device. **Do not leave the head of the cervical sampler in the vial.**

**Tighten** the cap so that the black torque line on the cap passes the black torque line on the vial. **Do not over-tighten.** Place the vial and pathology request form in a specimen bag for transportation to the laboratory.

Note: Certain molecular tests, such as HPV, CT/GC, TV, M.gen, can be performed from the same material collected for the ThinPrep Pap Test. Contact your laboratory for more information.

For more information please visit: www.thinprep.com.au

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