



Eastside Pathology, Inc., P.S. Specimen Collection Manual

For More Information Please Call us at 425.646.0922

CONVENTIONAL PAP SMEAR

Collection and Submission

Eastside Pathology offers three services for pap smear specimens. First is the conventional smear, collected and smeared onto the glass slide by the clinician. The second method is the liquid-based ThinPrep collection method in which the physician collects the sample, rinses it into a vial of collection fluid and submits this vial to the laboratory for processing. The third is the SurePath collection method which is similar to the ThinPrep collection except that the clinician leaves the collection device in the collection vial. All processes are available in-house and yield comparable turn-around-times. Advantages for using the ThinPrep and SurePath method include the ability to perform HPV DNA testing for high risk HPV DNA typing as well as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Herpes I and II testing.

PATIENT PREPARATION

- For best results, specimens should be taken at mid-cycle (between day 12 and 18) although this is not essential. Specimens should never be taken during active menstruation.
- Patients should be instructed to refrain from intercourse, douching and the use of intravaginal medications for 48 hours prior to examination.

COLLECTING THE CONVENTIONAL SPECIMEN

1. Insert an unlubricated speculum. Tap water or a small amount of normal saline may be used to moisten the speculum.
2. Using a cotton swab, gently remove any visible exudate from the surface of the cervix. Please do not use any acetic acid dilution.
3. Using a cytobrush and/or Ayres spatula, obtain a representative sample from the vaginal vault, cervix and endocervix.
4. The sample should be placed on the labeled slide and spread smoothly and evenly down the length of the slide.
5. Fix each slide immediately to avoid air-drying the specimen. Note: when using an aerosol spray fixative hold the aerosol can approximately 8" to 10" from the sample to avoid blowing the cells off the slide and to avoid air-drying artifact.
6. Using a # 2 pencil, write the patients name on the frosted end of the slide as well as on the outside of the PAP-PAK box.
7. Complete the requisition, including the following patient information:
 - a. Test ordered
 - b. Patient name, date of birth, age, address and insurance information
 - c. Physicians name
 - d. Date of examination
 - e. Patients social security number
 - f. Last menstrual period or other pertinent menstrual information
 - g. Any other pertinent Gyn information or observations
 - h. Number of slides sent

- i. History of abnormal Gyn cytology or histology
- 8. Attach requisition labels to the outside of the slide container.
- 9. Place the slide inside a biohazard bag and the requisition into the side pouch.

Slides broken, but repairable, with less than 50% of the slide missing will be repaired and processed as usual with an appropriate comment issued with the final report. Slides broken beyond repair with 50% or more of the slide missing will be handled as problem specimens and the submitting nurse or physician will be notified.

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