



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

For More Information Please Call us at 425.646.0922

## **THINPREP PAP SPECIMEN**

### *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 THINPREP PAP 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. **DO NOT** use any acetic acid dilution prior to collecting the pap.

#### Broom Collection Device

- a. Using a broom-like device, insert the central bristles deep enough into the endocervical canal so that the outer bristles fully contact the ectocervix. Push gently and rotate 5 times.
- b. Immediately rinse the broom into the Preservcyte solution vial by pushing the broom into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart.
- c. As a final step, swirl the broom vigorously to release any additional material. Failure to adequately rinse the collection device may result in a sample with low cellularity and consequently, QNS HPV results or false negative CT/NG results. Discard the collection device. **DO NOT LEAVE COLLECTION DEVICE HEAD IN VIAL.**

#### Brush/Spatula Collection Device

- a. Using the contoured end of the plastic spatula, rotate 360° around entire exocervix, maintaining tight contact with exocervical cervix.
- b. Rinse spatula in PreservCyt by swirling vigorously 10 times.
- c. Insert Cytobrush Plus GT device into cervix so that only the bottom most bristles are exposed. Slowly rotate ¼ to ½ turn in one direction. **DO NOT** over rotate, as this may cause excessive bleeding and contaminate the specimen.
- d. Rinse cytobrush in PreservCyt solution by rotating 10 times while pushing against the wall of the vial. Swirl device vigorously to release as much material as possible. Failure to adequately rinse

the collection device may result in a sample with low cellularity and consequently, QNS HPV results or false negative CT/NG results. Discard the collection device. DO NOT LEAVE COLLECTION DEVICE HEAD IN VIAL.

For All Samples

3. Cap the vial and label with patient name and requisition number.
4. 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 vials sent
  - i. History of abnormal Gyn cytology or histology
5. Place the vial inside a biohazard bag and the requisition into the side pouch.

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