



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

For More Information Please Call us at 425.646.0922

CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA (CT/NG) TESTING THINPREP PAP SPECIMEN

Collection and Submission

Eastside Pathology offers Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea (CT/NG) testing on samples collected using Preservcyte (ThinPrep) or SurePath collection fluid. Testing can be performed in addition to the pap and/or HPV test, or can be ordered alone.

Samples are collected using an approved broom-like or brush/spatula sampling device. These devices are rinsed in the pap collection solution and submitted to the lab with a request for CT/NG testing. Specimens must be labeled with patient name and/or requisition number in order to be processed. Unlabeled or mislabeled samples will be held and patient ID confirmed prior to processing. If ThinPrep collection is used, CT/NG testing must be requested on the requisition, prior to pap processing. Once the ThinPrep pap is processed, the sample may be cross-contaminated and is not eligible for Chlamydia or Gonorrhea testing. CT/NG may be added to a SurePath collection after pap has been processed

Samples collected in Preservcyte (ThinPrep) are stable for 3 weeks from date of collection at 4-37 C°. Vials are individually dated with an expiration date and should not be used after this date.

INTERFERING SUBSTANCES

- Mucous may inhibit PCR, causing false negatives
- Blood (>5%) may cause false positives
- Replens Lubricant has been shown to inhibit PCR and may yield false negative results.

LIMITATIONS OF THE METHOD

- The COBAS AMPLICOR CT/NG is a qualitative test. The magnitude of positive absorbance does not correlate with the number of organisms.
- Detection of an organism is dependant upon the number of organisms present in the specimen. Stage, strain, specimen collection, transport, storage and processing procedures can all affect detection.
- Presumptive Neisseria gonorrhea positives will be confirmed by an alternative Nucleic Acid Amplification test before final report is released.

PATIENT PREPARATION

- For best results, smears should be taken at mid-cycle (between day 12- 18), although this is not essential. Smears 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 PreservCyt 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.