



Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

GYNECOLOGICAL CYTOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Conventional PAP Smears: Vaginal or Cervical

- Advise the patient not to douche during the previous 24 hours.
- Use a clean glass slide with a frosted end.
- Label the slide with the patient's name and specimen source (V = vaginal, C = cervical).
 - Use pencil or a solvent-resistant permanent marker only.
 - Do not use ink.
- Obtain the vaginal specimen either from the posterior fornix with a spatula or directly from the posterior valve of the vaginal speculum.
- Obtain the cervical specimen by scraping the cervix with a wooden or plastic spatula.
- Do not use lubricant.
- Spread the specimen evenly across 2/3 of the glass slide.
- Immediately spray the slide with PAP fixative provided by DPMG.
- Place the slide(s) in a PAP smear/slide container.

Hormonal Cytology

- This must be requested specifically and requires clinical history.
- Follow the first three steps as outlined above.
- Obtain the specimen by gentle scraping of the upper third of the lateral vaginal wall.
- This specimen must be obtained first before either of the above specimens to avoid contamination.

Thin Prep/ Sure Path PAP Smears:

- As with the conventional PAP smears, the ThinPrep process begins with the patient's gynecological sample being collected using a cervical sampling device in the manner described above.
- Rather than being smeared on a microscope slide, the device is then immersed and rinsed in a vial filled with PreservCyt solution, supplied by DPMG.
- The sample vial is then tightly capped, labeled and sent for processing on our ThinPrep 2000 Processor which, through a process of dispersion, cell collection and cell transfer, creates a mono layer of cells on a slide to be stained with the PAP stain and examined under a microscope.

For all gynecological cytology specimens:

- Review and follow the directions for completing the DPMG cytology requisition and bagging and sending the specimen as detailed in the **Breast Cytology Specimen Collection and Handling Instructions** section.