

# Specimen Collection and Preparation for Cytopathology.

Laboratory test results are dependent on the quality of the specimen submitted. It is important that all specimens and request forms be properly labeled with the name of the patient, date of birth, collection date, time, original collector's initials, and the origin (source) of the specimen, when applicable. Specimens must have two patient identifiers (patient's name must be one of them); without these the specimen cannot be processed.

If there is any doubt or question regarding how the specimen should be collected, it is imperative that Sky Lakes Pathology Services be called to clarify the order and specimen requirement.

## Gynecological Specimen Collection:

**Papette Broom and Cytobrush:** Do not use Cytobrush on pregnant patient or for endometrial sampling. Collect cervical or endocervical specimen with a Papette brush (broom). Insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal deep enough to allow the shorter bristles to fully contact the ectocervix. Rotate broom 5 times in a clockwise direction. Rinse brush in ThinPrep pap vial by pushing the brush into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. Discard the collection device and tighten vial cap so torque line on cap passes torque line on vial.

**Spatula and Cytobrush:** Select contoured end of plastic spatula and rotate 360° around entire exocervix while maintaining tight contact with exocervical surface. Rinse contoured end of spatula in ThinPrep Pap vial by swirling vigorously 10 times. Discard spatula. Cap vial. Insert Cytobrush into the endocervix until only the bottom-most bristles are exposed at the outside. Slowly rotate ¼ to ½ turn in one direction. Do not over-rotate. Rinse the Cytobrush in the ThinPrep Pap vial by rotating the device in the solution 10 times while pushing it against the wall of the vial. Swirl the device vigorously to further release material. Discard Cytobrush. Tighten vial cap so torque line on cap passes torque line on vial. **Note:** Do not leave collection devices in the ThinPrep vial

## Handling:

Label ThinPrep™ vial with the patients' name, date of birth, and physician.

## Transport:

Ambient temperature.

## Rejection Criteria:

ThinPrep vial past expiration date; no specimen collected; unlabeled or mislabeled specimen.

## Storage:

Store PreservCyt Solution *with* cytologic sample intended for ThinPrep Pap testing between 15° C (59° F) and 30° C (86° F) for up to six weeks.

Store PreservCyt Solution *without* cytologic sample between 15° C (59° F) and 30° C (86° F). Do not use beyond the expiration date printed on the container.

## Performed:

Monday-Friday

## Non-Gynecological Specimen Collection:

### URINE:

First morning urine is voided. Patient should collect specimen in clean container. Saccomanno Fluid fixative can be added to specimen in a 1:1 ratio if specimen cannot be transported within two hours of collection. If no fixative is available, refrigerate specimen until transported.

### BLADDER WASHINGS:

Vigorously lavage the bladder with 50 mLs of saline using a syringe and catheter into a clean container. Saccomanno Fluid fixative can be added to specimen in a 1:1 ratio if specimen cannot be transported within two hours of collection. If no fixative is available, refrigerate specimen until transported.

### BRONCHIAL WASHINGS, BRONCHIAL ALVEOLAR LAVAGES, and BRONCHIAL BRUSHINGS:

Bronchial secretions in a sterile mucus trap. Refrigerate. If other tests are ordered, split specimen. Fix one specimen in Cytolyt collection fluid fixative for Cytology. Refrigerate and send other specimen fresh for other tests.

### FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION:

Use A fine needle (21-25 gauge) on any palpable or non-palpable mass. Smear on glass slides and immediately fix in 95% ethanol. Label all slides and bottles with patient name and source (with a permanent slide marker).

body fluid without fixative refrigerated.

**Handling:**

Label container with the patients' name, date of birth and physician. Slides should be transported in a slide holder.

**Minimum Volume:**

1 mLs of fluid.

**Storage:**

Any body fluids containing fixative ambient temperature. Any

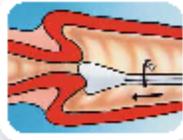
**Transport:**

Ambient temperature if specimen contains fixative. NON-Gynecological specimens without fixative must be transported within 2 hours.

**Rejection Criteria:**

Unlabeled, mislabeled or specimens that have been ambient longer than 2 hours or broken slides.

## Quick Reference Guide Endocervical Brush/Spatula Protocol



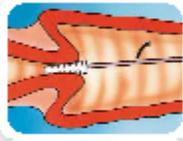
### Obtain...

an adequate sampling from the ectocervix using a plastic spatula. If desired, use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. Water-soluble gel lubricant sparingly applied to the posterior blade of the speculum can be used if necessary.<sup>1</sup> Select contoured end of plastic spatula and rotate it 360 degrees around the entire exocervix while maintaining tight contact with exocervical surface.



### Rinse...

the spatula as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt<sup>®</sup> Solution vial by swirling the spatula vigorously in the vial 10 times. Discard the spatula.



### Obtain...

an adequate sampling from the endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert the brush into the cervix until only the bottom-most fibers are exposed. Slowly rotate 1/4 or 1/2 turn in one direction. DO NOT OVER-ROTATE.



### Rinse...

the brush as quickly as possible in the PreservCyt Solution by rotating the device in the solution 10 times while pushing against the PreservCyt vial wall. 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.



### Record...

the patient's name and ID number on the vial.

### Record...

the patient information and medical history on the cytology requisition form.



### Place...

the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory.