

THE PATHOLOGY CENTER NEWSLETTER

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PAP SMEAR UPDATE

The Pathology Center is responding to your concerns and interest in liquid-based (*Cytec, Tripath*) cytology; more of our clients are aware of this technology and are inquiring about its use at NMHS. In a few months, both corporations will be demonstrating their systems and we are budgeting for liquid-based cytology services to begin by January, 2003. We are also evaluating the impact of upfront costs to clients (liquid bottles, brushes, training, transportation, vial outdates) in order to make liquid-based cytology financially feasible.

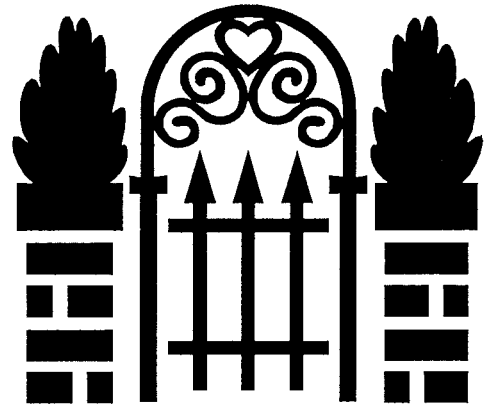
Most importantly, however, it is relevant to remember that the conventional pap smear is still 99% effective if performed annually. The rate of cervical cancer has dropped

dramatically in well developed countries due to the pap smear. In this country, the highest rate of cervical cancer occurs among patient populations who cannot afford medical care. Liquid-based cytology is more expensive and not completely reimbursed. The value of the conventional pap smear cannot be under-estimated, even with newer technologies.

Both methods of examination, conventional and liquid-based (thin prep) are only screening tests and both processes have false negative rates which are essentially the same.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY EXPANDS PATHOLOGY CENTER SERVICES

The Pathology Center has implemented new chemistry instrumentation from Roche Diagnostics. The new instrumentation includes two Cobas Integra 800 chemistry analyzers, an Elecsys 2010 immuno-chemistry system and a modular E170 high volume immunoassay. The laboratory has decreased the number of chemistry instruments from eleven down to five, which will significantly enhance turn around time and efficiency. The updated technology will allow The Pathology Center the flexibility to expand the test menu in the future.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Test Directory updates have been sent out. Please call Client Services (402-354-4541) if you did not receive an update or need additional updates or information.

Please note, in the case of **frozen samples** "separate aliquots" must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered.