



An Affiliate of Methodist Health System

THE PATHOLOGY CENTER

P.O. Box 24424
OMAHA, NE 68124-0424

(402) 354-4540
(888) 432-8980
FAX (402) 354-4535

Bulletin

Technical

TriPath Liquid Based Thin Layer Pap Test

Methodist Hospital Pathology Center is pleased to announce that effective February 17th, 2003, we will offer the FDA approved TriPath Liquid Based thin layer Pap test as an alternative to the Conventional Pap smear.

The Conventional Pap smear collection techniques have inherent limitations and variations in sampling and smearing processes. Approximately 80% of cells collected with spatulas remain adhered to the spatula and go into the trash. Only 20% of the cells get smeared on the slide, often overlapping and becoming obscured with blood, mucus, and inflammatory cells. These elements reduce smear quality and clarity, decreasing overall technical quality. TriPath processing significantly decreases variations in the collection and processing steps. The sample must be collected with the provided FDA approved Cervex-Brush. The brush tip is inserted into the endocervical canal. Gentle pressure must be applied until the bristles form against the cervix. Maintaining gentle pressure, the brush is rotated five times in a clockwise direction. The brush is then removed. The tip of the brush is transferred to the SurePath vial and the removable head twisted off. One hundred percent of the cellular material is collected. The TriPath technology uses a gradient centrifugation process thus eliminating debris, inflammation and blood. A uniform thin layer preparation is made.

For the patient, this means better preparations resulting in more definitive diagnosis. With the TriPath technology there will be decreased numbers of ASCUS, limited by, and unsatisfactory samples. This will result in fewer patient callbacks, less patient anxiety, and sometimes unnecessary procedures.

The Liquid Based Pap smear can be ordered on the new Pathology Center requisition. By marking the "Liquid Based PAP Smear" box, only a pap smear result will be generated. If the "Liquid Based PAP Smear with Reflex HPV" box is marked, an HPV test will automatically be ordered if the pap smear result is "atypical". The HPV testing is done by our reference laboratory and includes both high and low risk HPV. The SurePath vials will be saved in the laboratory for four weeks. Additional testing may be ordered within that time frame. The CPT number for Liquid Based Pap smears is 88142. The CPT number for HPV is 87621 x 2

For any questions or requests for additional supplies, please contact Client Services at 354-4541 or toll-free 888-432-8980.