

# ThinPrep® Pap Test cytobrush / spatula collections

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What do I do if the vial is knocked over?

If the vial is knocked over after the sample has been taken, look to see if any fluid still remains in the vial. If about one third of the fluid still remains in the vial, then the vial can still be sent to the lab for processing. Make a note on the request form to inform the laboratory of the sample spillage. Do not 'top up' the vial from a new vial as the lab will make any necessary level adjustments.

### Can I take a ThinPrep® sample if the patient is menstruating?

No. Peri-menstrual samples should be avoided.

### Can I use the cytobrush / spatula where there is stenosis of the os?

It is possible to use the cytobrush / spatula when there is stenosis of the os.

### Can I use the cytobrush / spatula for vault samples?

No, you need to use the Rovers® Cervex-Brush® to take vault samples by using a sweeping action.

### Can I use the cytobrush / spatula if there is an extensive ectropion area?

Yes. You can use the cytobrush / spatula when there is an extensive ectropion area. Collect the sample using a circular sweeping action.

### Can I use a lubricant?

If lubrication of the speculum is required, a little warm water should be used. If necessary a small amount of water-soluble carbomer-free lubricant should be applied sparingly to the outer portion of the speculum with great care to avoid the tip as it may interfere with the ThinPrep® Pap Test process.

### Do I need to take a separate sample for HPV testing?

No. HPV testing can be performed on the same material collected for the ThinPrep® Pap Test.

## Do's and Don'ts

### Do

- Do use a spatula and and cytobrush combination.
- Do rotate the spatula 360° around the entire ectocervix, while maintaining tight contact with ectocervical surface.
- Do insert the endocervical brush such that you can see the lower row of the bristles
- Do rotate the cytobrush slowly 1/4 or 1/2 turn in one direction.
- Do immediately rinse the spatula collected material into the vial. Transfer endocervical brush samples to the same vial by pressing the bristles against the side of the vial, swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. Visually inspect the cytobrush to ensure that no material remains attached.
- Do rinse the spatula and the cytobrush in the same vial.
- Do replace the lid and tighten so that the black torque line on the cap passes the black torque line on the vial to avoid leakage.
- Do keep the unlabelled portion of the sample vial free of labels so that the contents can be seen.
- Do send samples to the laboratory without delay.

### Don't

- Do not routinely clean the cervix or take a cervical swab before taking a cervical sample.
- Do not use an endocervical brush in isolation.
- Do not under any circumstances use a wooden spatula.
- Do not use non water-soluble lubricants containing carbomers.
- Do not leave the collection device sitting in the vial whilst dealing with the patient.
- Do not over tighten the lid onto the vial.
- Do not detach the head of the cytobrush into the vial.
- Do not place multiple labels on the outside of the vial.
- Do not apply any practice bar-coded labels vertically on the vial, apply them horizontally.
- Do not apply any labels over the lid of the container.
- Do not use expired vials.
- Do not delay the sending of the vials to the laboratory.
- Do not use the cytobrush during pregnancy.



### References

1. Cervicovaginal Cytology Based on the Papanicolaou Technique; Approved Guideline - Third Edition (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute GP15-A3).
2. Hologic internal study, data on file.
3. Rovers® Cervex-Brush® Combi, Information For Use, 2010-11.

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