

PDL UPDATE:

ThinPrep® Pap Collection Requirements

Tips for reducing Unsatisfactory Pap Specimens

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WHAT HAS OCCURRED

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories regularly monitors and reviews unsatisfactory Pap specimens. As these specimens cause rework for the medical offices and an inconvenience to the patient it is important to take necessary steps to reduce or eliminate unsatisfactory Pap specimens.

BACKGROUND

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories performs Pap testing using the Hologic ThinPrep® Pap system with imaging. This system uses an automated processor for creation of a Pap slide from the ThinPrep® Pap vial as well as performing aliquots for supplemental testing such as HPV, chlamydia and gonorrhea. A number of variables can cause issues with the process and may cause an unsatisfactory Pap specimen.

Common Causes of Unsatisfactory Pap Specimens:

1. **Collection device left in the vial:** The head of a broom or brush in the vial can cause issues with the processing of the specimen. If the head of the device is left in the vial it will interfere with the automated processor and will compromise the specimen. This may cause the inability to perform some or all of the testing off of the vial.
2. **Lubricant:** The ThinPrep Pap specimen can be impacted by the use of lubricants and lubricant use is not recommended and if used must be a compatible product.

TIPS FOR REDUCING UNSATISFACTORY PAPS

DISCARD THE BROOM OR BRUSH: With either a broom or brush used for the collection, the device should be discarded after rinsing and rotating in the PreservCyt Solution (ThinPrep vial) 10 times per the instructions.

IF A LUBRICANT IS NECESSARY, the following are compatible:

Preferred	Compatible
PAP Test Lubricating Jelly <i>Aseptic Control Products</i>	K-Y Jelly (Physician Formula) <i>Johnson & Johnson</i>
Surgilube Surgical Lubricant <i>HR Pharmaceuticals</i>	Surgel <i>Ulmer Pharmacal</i>
A full list as well as additional tip sheets are available at https://www.hologic.com/thinprep	

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