PROCEDURE: PAP TEST, CONVENTIONAL OR THINPREP

General information

ThinPrep PAP test method: Cells from a vaginal, exocervical or endocervical, specimen are collected and transferred into a transport solution medium (Cytyc solution container) by agitating vigorously the collection tool into the solution (Figure 1).

As a result, the ThinPrep PAP test method facilitates the microscopic study because the specimen is more uniform throughout the whole smear.

Conventional PAP test: Cells from a vaginal, exocervical or endocervical, specimen are smeared directly onto a microscopic frosted and fixed slide (Figure 2).

Medical supplies

- Cytyc container (Pap Test and HPV) (Figure 3) and/or;
- Frosted slide and slide transportation box;
- Pathology requisition CF300 001;
- Biohazard bag;
- Stability:
  - Cytyc container: 4 weeks between 2 – 8 ºC

Collection

The microscopic study of the smear is facilitated when the specimen contains a lot of cells.
ThinPrep PAP Test

1) Sample #1 (spatula)
   - Using the contoured end of the spatula, turn it at a 360° angle;
   - Vigorously swirl the spatula in the Cytyc solution container 10 times;
   - Discard the spatula.

2) Sample #2: (brush)
   - Using the brush, turn it at a 90° angle;
   - Vigorously swirl the brush in the Cytyc solution container 10 times while turning it against the interior of the container;
   - Discard the brush.

3) Identify the specimen:
   - First and last name;
   - Date of birth and/or Medicare number.

4) Indicate the source of the specimen & the last menstrual period of the patient on the pathology requisition;

5) Send the sample to the laboratory:

Illustrated ThinPrep collection procedure with spatula

1) 2) 3)

4) 5) 6)

Convention Pap Test

1) Sample with spatula;
   - Turning the brush at a 360° angle toward the right and then at a 360° angle toward the left;
   - Simultaneously swab the cervix as well as the labia of the vagina.

2) Using the wooden spatula, spread the exoterically specimen on the microscopic slide;

3) Using the contoured edge of the wooden spatula spread the end cervical specimen onto the microscopic slide;

4) Fixation should be done immediately. Spray the smear for several seconds at a distance of about 20 cm;

5) Identify the specimen:
   - First and last name;
   - Date of birth and/or Medicare number.

\[1\] In the case of abnormal results, it is recommended to proceed with the HPV DNA Detection Test. However, authorisation from the requesting doctor is required.
6) Indicate the source of the specimen & the last menstrual period of the patient on the pathology requisition;

7) Send the sample to the laboratory:

Illustrated conventional collection procedure with spatula

1) 2) 3)

Additional information

1) Cervical specimens: (Exocervical and Endocervival):
   - Insert the speculum (ideally, non-lubricated) so that the cervix can be seen. Then, obtain some cervical cells using the method described for the ThinPrep Pap Test, or the Conventional Pap Test.
   - Exocervix: External / intravaginal portion of the cervix
   - Endocervix: Glandular portion at the opening of the cervix

2) Endocervical brushing:
   - PAP Testing used in combination with Endocervical brushing increases the quality of the smear.

3) Endometrial Aspiration:
   - Smears can be made from endometrial aspirations and manipulated in the same manner as Pap smears. However, the smear must be made immediately after collection. Therefore, prepare the smear as you would when preparing a smear for the Conventional Pap Test method.

4) Vaginal Specimens:
   - Vaginal specimens are obtained by scraping the lateral portion of the vagina near the cervix;
   - The goal is to detect and diagnose Endometrial cancer.