Conventional Pap Test Collection Using the Broom Device

Quality Control

Immediate fixation of the cellular sample, within seconds of collection, is necessary to prevent air-drying. Air-drying obscures cellular detail and compromises specimen evaluation. Spraying immediately with fixative can prevent air-drying artifact.

Supplies Needed

Gynecologic Cytology Requisition, *completed with required information*
Clean, frosted end slide
Graphite (lead) pencil
Cytology spray fixative
Broom collection device
Isotonic saline (optional; for atrophic mucosa)
Plastic slide container

Procedure

1. Have all material ready for use. Speed in preparing and fixing the smear is critical. Air drying, which starts to occur within 5 seconds of spreading the smear may make the smear difficult or impossible to read.

2. Label the glass slides on the frosted end with the patient's name and one other identifier (DOB, SSN, MRN) before the smear is taken. Use a graphite pencil only; ink will dissolve during processing.

3. Complete the requisition with all required information. See requisition requirement section of this manual.

4. The ectocervix and endocervix are sampled simultaneously with the "broom-like" device.

5. For atrophic mucosa a small amount of isotonic saline may be instilled into the vagina to act as a moistening agent for the cells prior to obtaining the cellular sample.

6. Remove excess mucus, discharge, or inflammatory exudates from the cervical canal before taking the sample. This should be gently removed with ring forceps holding a folded gauze pad. Place a dry 2 x 2 inch piece of gauze over the cervix and peel it away after it absorbs the exudates. Alternatively, a dry proctoswab or scopette may be used. The excess cervical mucus is essentially devoid of meaningful cellular material and when present on the slide may obscure cellular details. The cervix should not be cleaned by washing with saline or it may result in a relatively acellular specimen.

7. After gently removing and discarding any excess mucus and exudates on the outer portion of the cervix, the central bristles of the broom should be inserted

into the endocervical canal until the lateral bristles bend fully against the ectocervix.

8. Push gently and rotate the broom clockwise 360 degrees in the same direction five (5) times while maintaining gentle pressure.

9. Remove the broom and with a single paint stroke motion transfer the cellular sample down the long axis of the labeled surface of the slide.

10. Turn the broom over and repeat the paint stroke motion over the same area.

11. **Fix immediately** with cytology spray fixative.

12. The device should be discarded.

13. Place slides in plastic slide container, attach the completed requisition form to the container and send to laboratory. The specimen is stable indefinitely once spray fixed.