



LEGACY  
LABORATORY  
SERVICES

## **Anal/Rectal Pap Smear Collection Method Using SurePath or ThinPrep**

1. A Dacron swab or cytobrush, if tolerated by the patient, are the best collection devices for anal cytology.
2. If using the Dacron swab, moisten the swab with water. Do not use lubricant.
3. The Dacron swab or cytobrush should be inserted approximately 1.5 to 2 inches into the anal canal. It is important to use Dacron and not a cotton swab, as cells tend to cling to cotton and do not release easily into cytology collection fluids.
4. Once inserted deep enough into the anus (necessary in order to collect both rectal columnar and anal squamous cells) the swab or brush should be pulled out, applying some pressure to the wall of the anus, rotating the swab or brush in a spiral motion along the way.
5. Immediately after collection, all devices employed should be vigorously rinsed into a single vial of cytology fixative (SurePath or ThinPrep).
6. Record two patient identifiers on the vial. Also record the patient information and medical history on the requisition form.
7. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory.

**For Questions Contact  
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