



## **Training Bulletin**

*This bulletin is part of a series of Cytoc Corporation custom training bulletins designed as a continuation of Cytoc Corporation's in-house customer training program.*

### **Patient Information**

- **The patient should be tested 2 weeks after the first day of her last menstrual period, and definitely not when she is menstruating.**  
Even though the TPPT reduces obscuring blood, clinical studies have demonstrated that excessive amounts of blood may still compromise the test and possibly lead to an unsatisfactory result<sup>2</sup>.
- **The patient should not use vaginal medication, vaginal contraceptives, or douches during the 48 hours before the exam.**

### **Specimen Collection Preparation**

- **Lubricant jellies should not be used to lubricate the speculum.**  
Even though lubricant jellies are water soluble, excessive amounts of jelly may compromise the test and possibly lead to an unsatisfactory result. If lubricant is necessary due to patient discomfort or use of a plastic speculum, it should be applied to the speculum directly using as little as needed to create a thin film on the speculum's surface avoiding the tip. Lubricant on the cervix may interfere with obtaining a representative cervical sample or cause artifact in the alcohol based transport medium.
- **Remove excess mucus or other discharge present before taking the sample. This should be gently removed with ring forceps holding a folded gauze pad.**  
The excess cervical mucus is essentially devoid of meaningful cellular material and when present in the sample vial may yield a slide with little or no diagnostic material present.
- **Remove inflammatory exudate from the cervical canal before taking the sample. Remove by placing a dry 2 x 2 inch piece of gauze over the cervix and peeling it away after it absorbs the exudate or by using a dry proctoswab or scopette.**  
The excess inflammatory exudate is essentially devoid of diagnostic cellular material and when present in the sample vial may yield a slide with little or no diagnostic material present.
- **The cervix should not be cleaned by washing with saline or it may result in a relatively acellular specimen.**
- **The sample should be obtained before the application of acetic acid.**

<sup>2</sup> Lee et al. Comparison of Conventional Papanicolaou Smears and a Fluid-Based, Thin-Layer System for Cervical Cancer Screening. *Ob Gyn* 1997; 90: 278-284.