

Liquid Based Cytology (LBC)

LBC is an alternative way of preparing your Pap smear. Your doctor or nurse will collect your smear in exactly the same way as usual. However, instead of throwing the collection instrument away, it is rinsed into preservative solution to retrieve any extra cells left on it. This fluid is sent to the laboratory along with your conventional Pap smear slide where it is processed by a special machine to prepare an additional slide. A computerised scanning device is used to automatically scan the slide and identify important areas requiring examination.

There are several benefits in having this type of Pap test. About 1-2% of Pap smears are reported as unsatisfactory because the cells of interest are obscured by the presence of blood or mucus on the slide. Although this may be normal, it can interfere with the interpretation of the cells from your cervix. In most, but not all cases, the use of LBC clears away these obscuring factors. This will make the important cells visible and negate the need for a repeat sample. In addition, abnormal cells may be identified on the LBC slide but not on the conventional Pap smear, although this only occurs in a small number of cases.

There is currently no Medicare rebate for this test.

For further information please
speak with your doctor



Specialists in Private Pathology since the 1920s

As this brochure contains only general information, professional advice from your medical practitioner should be sought before applying the information in this brochure to particular circumstances. You should not rely on any information contained in this brochure without first obtaining professional advice. Prices are correct at time of printing and are subject to change without notice.

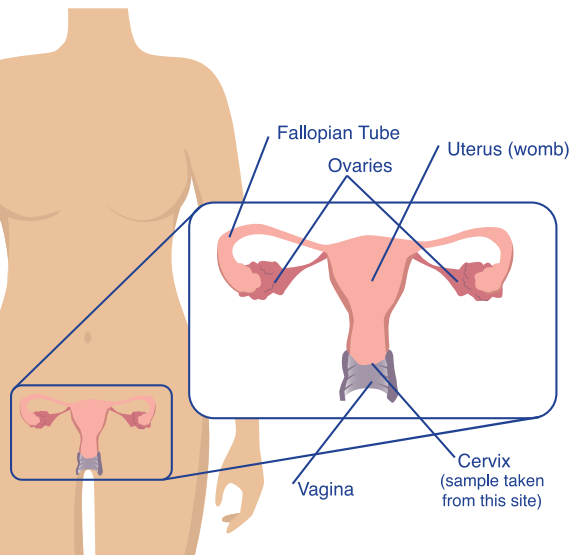


What is a Pap test ?

A Pap test is a simple procedure in which cells are removed from the cervix, the lower end of the womb, during an internal examination of the vagina. The cells are transferred onto a slide and sent to the laboratory, where trained scientists examine the cells under a microscope.

Why have a Pap smear?

Pap smears are an easy way to detect early changes in the cells of the cervix. Unless these changes are found and treated early, they could lead to cancer. Having regular Pap smears means these changes can be detected and successfully treated. This reduces the likelihood of developing cervical cancer and it could save your life.



How effective is the Pap smear?

The Pap smear is a 'screening test' and will not detect all abnormalities. Some smears may be incorrectly reported as normal - these are commonly known as 'false negative' Pap smears. Having regular Pap smears greatly reduces the risk of 'false negatives'.

Who needs a Pap smear?

- All women who are, or have been, sexually active
- Women after menopause still need a Pap smear
- Women who have had a hysterectomy may still need a Pap smear



What about the results ?

The results of your Pap smear will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will arrange for the result to be given to you directly.

A negative report means that no significant changes were seen in the cells.

A report of low-grade or possible low-grade abnormalities means that minor changes were found. These changes are common and often just disappear. Another smear or further tests are usually recommended.

A report of high-grade or possible high-grade abnormalities means that there are changes your doctor will need to investigate further. Referral to a specialist gynaecologist may be necessary.

An unsatisfactory smear occurs when the cells cannot be properly examined, or the sample of the cells is too small. There are a number of reasons why this may happen, and are often out of the control of the practitioner taking the smear or the laboratory examining it. A repeat smear is recommended.

Remember:

Regular Pap smears are the best way to identify changes that warn of cancer, regardless of the method used.