

Unsatisfactory Pap Tests Due to Inappropriate Lubricant Usage Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak, Troy Only

Effective Date: June 28, 2017

Laboratory Bulletin

The ThinPrep® Pap test (Hologic, Inc) is the preparation method employed at Beaumont Royal Oak, Troy, and Grosse Pointe Hospitals. There are many advantages of using liquid based methodology such as ThinPrep® Pap test compared to conventional Pap smears, which include better cellular yield and preservation.

An optimal rate of unsatisfactory Paps obtained with ThinPrep® Pap test is less than 2%. Some Beaumont physicians have experienced an increased unsatisfactory specimen rate with certain lubricant use due to the presence of interfering substances called **carbomers**. The use of lubricants is not recommended when collecting a ThinPrep® Pap specimen. It is best to use only water when collecting such a specimen. A lubricant can be used for pelvic examination purposes after the specimen is collected.

If a lubricant is necessary in certain patients such as postmenopausal women, Hologic Inc. has validated the following four lubricants:

Preferred Lubricants

- Surgilube® Surgical Lubricant by HR Pharmaceuticals
- Pap Test Lubricating Jelly by Aseptic Control Products

Compatible Lubricants

- K-Y® Jelly (Physician formula only) by Johnson & Johnson
- Surge® by Ulmer Pharmacal

When any lubricant is used apply only to the exterior sides of the speculum, avoiding the tip and use sparingly (approximately a dime sized amount). Usage of pre-lubricated speculums may also be the source of the interfering lubricant and should be avoided.

Healthcare providers should also counsel patients to refrain from using over-the counter lubricants and vaginal medications **2 days before** the collection of a Pap test. This is in addition to collecting the specimen mid-cycle to avoid excessively bloody specimens.

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

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Beaumont Laboratory

Customer Service

1-800-551-0488