This resource is a guide for practitioners to assist them in identifying visual cervical appearances.

The images shown here are some examples of cervices you may see when taking a Pap test.

It is recommended that any visual cervical abnormality be referred for further investigation even if the Pap test is reported as normal.

If you are uncertain about the appearance of the cervix, we recommend you seek a second opinion.

Thank you to all practitioners who provided cervical images for this resource.

Funded by PapScreen Victoria, the Victorian component of the National Cervical Screening Program.

Produced by PapScreen Victoria and the Victorian Cytology Service.

# Recommended techniques and instruments to be used when taking a Pap test

## For pre-menopausal women

**Cervical sampler broom:** rotate 3–5 times  

*or*

**Cervex Brush® Combi:** insert central part of the brush into os and rotate twice clockwise  

*or*

**Spatula:** rotate once or twice, taking care to keep contact with the ecto-cervix  

*plus*

**Endocervical brush:** insert ensuring that you can see the lower row of the bristles, make a quarter rotation, then gently roll the brush onto the slide

## For peri- and post-menopausal women

**Cervical sampler broom:** rotate 3–5 times  

*plus*

**Endocervical brush:** insert ensuring that you can see the lower row of the bristles, make a quarter rotation, then gently roll the brush onto the slide  

*or*

**Cervex Brush® Combi:** insert central part of the brush into os and rotate twice clockwise  

*or*

**Spatula:** rotate once or twice, taking care to keep contact with the ecto-cervix  

*plus*

**Endocervical brush:** insert ensuring that you can see the lower row of the bristles, make a quarter rotation, then gently roll the brush onto the slide

### Slide fixation

After taking the sample, fix the slide within 5 seconds, spraying from a distance of 20cms. The cells expand if they are not fixed promptly and might appear falsely normal.

### Liquid-based cytology

Use plastic sampling instruments (not the wooden spatula). Agitate in the fluid to release cells. Dispose of the instruments, do not leave them in the fluid.

### Testing for HPV using Hybrid Capture® Brush

After taking the Pap test, insert the brush into the cervical os (ensuring you can see the lower bristles). Rotate it 3 times counter-clockwise, withdraw it and snap it off into the tube.  

HPV testing can also be done on liquid-based samples. Check with your lab.

### Special notes

**Eversion:** take care to sample the squamo-columnar junction. This is the junction where the columnar epithelium of the endocervical canal meets the squamous epithelium of the vagina. It is the area where cell changes occur.

**Pregnancy:** do not use the endocervical brush or Cervex-Brush® Combi.

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### Sampling instruments

- Spatula (wood or plastic)
- Endocervical brush
- Cervical sampler broom
- Cervex-Brush® Combi
- Hybrid Capture® Brush

### Techniques

- Cervical sampler broom & Cervex-Brush® Combi
- Spatula & Endocervical brush
- Hybrid Capture® Brush