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

The images shown here are some examples of cervixes you may see when taking a cervical sample.

It is recommended that any visual cervical abnormality be referred for further investigation even if the result 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 VCS Pathology.

3 Reproduced with permission from: Cartier, René, 1984. Practical Colposcopy. Laboratoire Cartier; Switzerland; page 168.
**Recommended techniques & instruments to be used when taking a Pap test**

**For pre-menopausal women**

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

- **Cervix-Brush® Combi:** insert central part of the brush into os and rotate clockwise twice
  
  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 and make a quarter rotation

**Making the Pap slide**

After taking the sample/s they must be placed promptly onto the slide. Wipe both sides of the spatula, cervical sampler broom or Cervix-Brush® Combi onto the slide.

If you have taken an endocervical brush sample, roll this gently onto the remaining half (see diagrams).

**Fix the slide within 5 seconds**, spraying from a distance of around 20cms. The cells expand if they are not fixed quickly and any degree of dysplasia might be underestimated.

Watch the instructional DVD **Taking a Pap Smear and other Cervical Samples** to see the correct technique for making and fixing the slide.

**Pap test & liquid-based cytology (LBC)**

Make the Pap test slide as indicated above then immediately place the instruments into the LBC and agitate to release cells.

**Testing for HPV (test of cure)**

Make the Pap test slide as usual then immediately place the instruments into the LBC and agitate to release cells.

**LBC & Compass Clinical Trial**

If participating in this trial, please only send a ThinPrep™ brand of LBC sample to VCS. Please take a cervical sample using the usual sampling instruments then immediately place the instruments into ThinPrep. Agitate to release cells.

**For peri & post-menopausal women**

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

  or

- **Cervix-Brush® Combi:** insert central part of the brush into os and rotate clockwise twice
  
  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 and make a quarter rotation

**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 Cervix-Brush® Combi.

**Sampling instruments**

- Spatula
- Endocervical brush
- Cervical sampler broom
- Cervix-Brush® Combi

**Techniques**

- Cervical sampler broom & Cervix-Brush® Combi
- Spatula & Endocervical brush

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Disclaimer: This resource is a guide for practitioners only. Neither PapScreen Victoria nor any other persons associated with the preparation of this resource accept any liability whatsoever from consequences arising from the use of this resource.