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## Laboratory Alliance first to offer SurePath test in CNY

07/13/07: SALINA — Laboratory Alliance of Central New York, LLC says that its Cytopathology Department is the first in Central New York to offer the SurePath liquid-based Pap test. This test methodology offers clinicians the choice of collection devices. The sampling devices have removable tips that are easily deposited directly into the fixative vial. This ensures 100 percent of the collected sample is sent to the laboratory for processing, according to Laboratory Alliance, which is based in the town of Salina.

The SurePath Cell Enrichment Procedure removes obscuring blood, mucus, lubricant, and inflammatory cells to provide the pathologist with optimal cell visualization. It also leaves 100 percent of the collected, diagnostically relevant cells submitted in the fixative, the firm says.

A centrifugation method is used to concentrate the cells, ensuring that adequate cellularity is present on the final slide preparation. This is in contrast to the ThinPrep Pap methodology, which uses a filter to collect the cells from the liquid specimen, Laboratory Alliance says. Blood, mucus, and lubricant can adhere to the filter, essentially preventing epithelial cells from being sampled. In some cases, this results in an unsatisfactory specimen, the company contends.

The SurePath Pap yields a higher detection rate of high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) compared to other current Pap methods, according to Laboratory Alliance.

Additionally, while the number of “unsatisfactory” Pap tests is considerably reduced, so is the need for patients to reschedule appointments and/or have the Pap test specimen recollected.

Another advantage to the SurePath Pap is that Human Papillomavirus testing can be performed on the specimen that remains in the vial after performing the Pap test, Laboratory Alliance says.

— M.C.

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