

The use of lubricants with the ThinPrep Pap test is not recommended. However, if a lubricant is necessary, consult this list of common lubricant brands for compatibility.^{1*}

ThinPrep® Pap Test Lubricant Compatibility List

	Lubricant	Manufacturer	Contains Carbomer?
✓ Preferred†	PAP Test Lubricating Jelly	Aseptic Control Products	No
	Surgilube Surgical Lubricant	HR Pharmaceuticals	No
✓ Compatible‡	K-Y Jelly (Physician Formula)	Johnson & Johnson	No [§]
	Surgel	Ulmer Pharmacal	No
✗ Incompatible§	Aquagel Lubricating Gel	Parker Laboratories, Inc.	Yes
	Astroglide (Physician Formula)	BioFilm, Inc.	No
	Astroglide (Personal Formula)[¶]	BioFilm, Inc.	No
	Crystelle	Deltex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. - FDA injunction in 2011; no longer in operation	Unknown
	HR Lubricating Jelly	HR Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Yes
	Lubricating Gel	Henry Schein	Yes
	Lubricating Jelly	McKesson	Yes
	MediChoice Lubricating Jelly	Owens & Minor	Yes
	PDI Lubricating Jelly I and II	PDI Healthcare	Yes
	PSS Select (also known as Triad)	PSS World Medical, Inc.	Yes
	Rite Aid Pharmacy Lubricating Gel[#]	Rite Aid Corp.	Yes
	Allegiance	Medline Industries, Inc. (formerly Triad/H&P Industries)	Yes
	Aplicare Sterile Lubricating Jelly (also known as Operand Lubricating Jelly)	Aplicare Inc./Clorox Professional	Yes
	Aqua Lube Personal Lubricant^{**}	Mayer Laboratories	No
	DynaLube Lubricating Jelly	Dynarex Corporation	Yes
	E-Z Lubricating Jelly	Chester Packaging	Yes
	IMCO Lubricating Jelly	Medline Industries, Inc. (formerly Triad/H&P Industries)	Yes
	Lubricating Jelly	DUKAL Corporation	Yes
	Lubri-Gel	Sheffield Pharmaceuticals	Yes
	Maxilube Personal Lubricant	Mission Pharmacal	Yes
NovaPlus	Medline Industries, Inc. (formerly Triad/H&P Industries)	Yes	
Pro Advantage Lubricating Jelly	National Distribution & Contracting, Inc.	Yes	
ReliaMed Lubricating Jelly	ReliaMed	Yes	

*The use of lubricants (e.g., KY Jelly) should be avoided prior to specimen collection. Lubricants can adhere to the filter membrane and may cause poor cell transfer to the slide. If its use is unavoidable, the lubricant should be used in minimum amounts. †Preferred: Lubricants have multiple lots run through periodic testing to ensure compatibility. ‡Compatible: Lubricants have been tested at least once, but periodic testing is not regularly performed. §Incompatible: Lubricants have either been tested and deemed incompatible or excluded from testing because they contain carbomer. ¶Carbomethylcellulose ingredient does not perform like carbomer-containing lubricants. #Not recommended due to low viscosity and cell reduction percentage. **Not recommended due to borderline cell reduction percentage.

1. ThinPrep 2000 System Operator's Manual. MAN-02585-001, Rev. 005. Marlborough, MA: Hologic, Inc.; 2014.

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April 26, 2022

Re: Lubricant use during Pap sample collection

Dear Colleague,

On occasion, Hologic personnel are asked to provide information concerning the use of lubricants when collecting a Pap sample with the ThinPrep® Pap test. As part of Hologic's continuing education for clinicians and laboratorians, this bulletin addresses the proper preparation of the cervix for an adequate Pap sample collection pertaining to the ThinPrep Pap test and the use of lubricants on the speculum. Steps taken by the clinician, from patient education to improved sampling technique, may ensure that the sample collected maximizes the potential of the ThinPrep Pap test.^{1,2}

Patient Education:

Women should be counseled to refrain from intercourse, douching, using tampons or intravaginal medication for at least 48 hours before the examination to decrease the possibility that the number of exfoliated cells will be diminished or obscured by personal lubricants or spermicides.^{1,2} In addition, the patient should avoid scheduling her appointment during heavy menstrual bleeding.¹ If you would like patient education materials for your office, please contact your Hologic representative.

Sample Collection Options for Lubricating the Speculum:

1. Lukewarm Water: For a patient without physical or physiologic reasons for needing lubricant, lukewarm water may be used to warm and lubricate the speculum. This protocol poses the least risk to the quality of the Pap sample collected.^{1,3} Professional organizations including ACOG and CLSI recognize that excessive use of lubricant may contaminate or obscure the Pap sample.

2. Lubricant Gels: If lubricant must be used due to patient discomfort or other circumstances, it should be used sparingly and applied **only** to the exterior sides of the speculum blades, **avoiding contact with the tip of the speculum** (see pictures below).¹⁻⁴ When a lubricant is used sparingly and appropriately it poses little risk to the quality of the Pap sample. However, when a lubricant is used in excess, it can adversely affect the Pap sample.

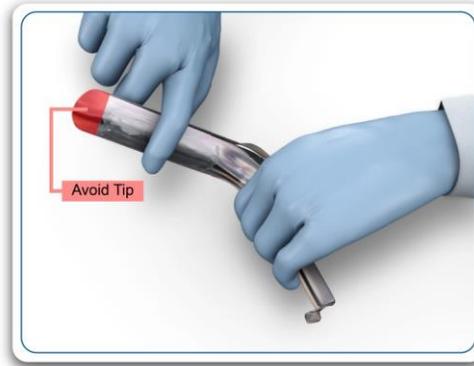
Hologic evaluated a variety of popular lubricants and found those containing carbomer or Carbopol polymers (thickening agents) interfere with the ThinPrep Pap test when found in the sample vial.⁵ Hologic recognizes the varying availability of different types of lubricants and recommends that, if used, any lubricant should be applied sparingly as described below.

Appropriate Use of Lubricant for ThinPrep Pap Sample Collection

Apply a dime-sized amount of lubricant gel.



Apply only to exterior sides of the speculum, avoiding the tip.



Should you have further questions regarding this topic, please refer to the CLSI guidelines or contact the Hologic Technical Support Department at 1-800-442-9892, option 6.

Sincerely,

Philipp Mueller

Sr. Director Medical and Scientific Affairs

References: 1. Davey DD, et al. Cervical Cytology Specimen Adequacy: Patient Management Guidelines and Optimizing Specimen Collection. *J Low Genit Tract Dis.* 2008;12(2):71-81. doi: 10.1097/LGT.0b013e3181585b9b 2. Amies AE, et al. The Effect of Vaginal Speculum Lubrication on the Rate of Unsatisfactory Cervical Cytology Diagnosis. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2002;100(5, Pt 1):889-892. 3. CLSI. Cervicovaginal Cytology Based on the Papanicolaou Technique; Approved Guideline – Third Edition (GP15-A3). Wayne, PA: Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute; 2008. 4. ACOG. Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention. Practice Bulletin No. 168. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2016;128(4):e111-30. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000001708 5. Hologic, Inc. Internal study. Data on file.

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