



Fern Test Collection Instructions

FMH Laboratory
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Fairbanks, AK 99701

Equipment Required:

- Sterile Speculum
- Sterile cotton tipped swab
- Microscope slides
- Pencil

Before you Begin:

- Specimen must be obtained from the posterior vaginal pool.
- The presence of blood, urine or cervical mucous can result in a false positive fern test.

Specimen Collection Procedure:

Step	Action
1	Place patient in the dorsal lithotomy position.
2	Avoid the use of lubricants or antiseptics.
3	Place sterile speculum into vaginal vault.
4	Obtain a sample of vaginal secretions from the posterior vaginal pool using a sterile swab. Be sure not to touch the mucus plug.
5	Place fluid on a glass slide, spreading the specimen evenly so that a thin smear is formed.
6	Allow slide to air dry for 5 minutes.
7	Properly label the slide with proper patient identification, including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • MRN or DOB • Date/time of collection • Collector initials
8	Order "Fern" in Powerchart or send requisition with specimen.
9	IMMEDIATELY transport, at room temperature, to the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Main Laboratory for analysis.

Reference:

Mosby Nursing Skills accessed 3/22/10

http://app44.webinservice.com/NursingSkills/ContentPlayer/SkillContentPlayerIFrame.aspx?KeyId=1188&Id=MN_110&Section=1&bc=Keyword~fern~False&IsConnect=False