

The ThinPrep test is a liquid-based Cervical Screening Test where a woman's cells are collected by a healthcare professional, transported to the laboratory in the preservative medium and when required, is processed on to a glass slide in a thin, even layer which improves the quality of the slide.

The ThinPrep modified Pap test technique designed to reduce some of the technical problems inherent in the traditional type of Pap smear.

In the traditional Pap test, cell samples are obtained from the vagina, cervix, and cervical canal and spread on a glass slide. In the ThinPrep test, cell samples are collected using a special brush that is immediately washed in a special fluid. The ThinPrep machine then filters out the cells from the solution and deposits them in a thin uniform monolayer (a single layer of cells) on a glass slide.

The ThinPrep method has some significant advantages. It removes contaminants such as blood and mucus which frequently obscure cells in the traditional Pap smear. The monolayer of cells is also easier to examine under the microscope. This results in an increased rate of detection of abnormal cells.

The ThinPrep test is routinely performed on a cervical screening sample if there is a high-risk HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) detected. The cost of this test, if performed, is now covered fully by the PBS (Medicare).