

Re: Lubricant use during Pap test collection

Dear Colleague:

On occasion we are asked to provide information concerning the use of lubricants when collecting a Pap test. It is important to note that lubricant increases the risk of contaminating or obscuring the cellular sample with both conventional Pap smears as well as all liquid based methods. Because of this, bodies such as Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (formerly NCCLS) have suggested that lukewarm water be used to lubricate and warm speculum.

Hologic has evaluated a variety of popular lubricants and found that those containing an ingredient known as “carbomers” or “carbopol polymers” are prone to interfere with popular liquid based Pap tests. Since ingredients within the lubricants may not be listed, we do not recommend the use of lubricants when collecting a specimen.

If lubricant must be used due to patient discomfort or other circumstances, it should be applied sparingly on the outer portion of the speculum *with great care to avoid the tip.*

The following table lists the names of lubricants that do not contain the interfering substance along with distributors known to us. Please note the list is not exhaustive and is merely a starting point for your reference.

Surgilube <sup>®</sup> Surgilube is a registered trademark of E. Fougera & Co.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PSS World Medical</li><li>• Cardinal Health</li><li>• <a href="http://www.savagelabs.com">www.savagelabs.com</a></li></ul>
Astroglide <sup>®</sup> Astroglide is a registered trademark of Biofilm, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PSS World Medical</li><li>• <a href="http://www.drugstore.com">www.drugstore.com</a></li></ul>
Crystelle <sup>®</sup> Crystelle is a registered trademark of Deltex Pharmaceuticals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check with local distributors</li></ul>

Should you have further questions regarding this topic, Please contact Hologic Technical Support Department at 1-800-442-9892, option 6.

Sincerely,



Edward Evantash  
Medical Director