

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY
Position Statement Regarding Primary Screening of Pap Test
Gynecologic Cytology Specimens by Pathologists

The ASC recommends that cytology laboratories utilize cytotechnologists for all manual primary screening of Pap tests.

The vast majority of gynecologic cytology Pap test specimens in the United States are initially screened by cytotechnologists and data supports the value of the cytotechnologists' role. Most pathology residency training programs and cytopathology fellowships do not include specific training and evaluation in primary screening of Pap tests that is as extensive as that provided in the formal training given in schools of cytotechnology. However, in certain unusual or emergency circumstances the primary screening of Pap tests may be done by a pathologist.

Approved by the ASC Executive Board, April, 2006

<http://www.cytopathology.org/website/article.asp?id=442>