

# LIQUID-BASED CYTOLOGY PATHOLOGY IS IN OUR DNA



More than 65 years after the introduction of the Papanicolaou (Pap) test, cervical cancer remains a significant public health burden. In South Africa, cervical cancer is the second most common malignancy in women. Major advances in cervical cancer screening, such as the development of liquid-based cytology (LBC), have reduced death rates from cervical cancer worldwide.

A shift from the conventional Pap test to the **LBC Pap test** in cervical cancer screening enables better sample quality and improved reproducibility, sensitivity and specificity to detect cervical cancer lesions as well as the ability to perform additional cytology, ancillary testing and digital computer-assisted analysis.

## What is LBC?

LBC is an improved cervical cell sampling method. Liquid-based specimens offer a more efficient and better quality preparation free from limitations of the conventional Pap smear. Instead of a cervical sample directly applied to a microscopic slide for investigation, cells are preserved in a fixative liquid to produce an accurate representation of a thin layer of cells for microscopic investigation. This improves the smear **interpretation accuracy** and **reduces the need for repeat Pap tests by reducing obscuring factors (such as blood, mucus and inflammatory cells), thereby lowering costs.**

Current available LBC technologies include the ThinPrep and the SurePath Pap test platforms. Both these technologies offer increased accuracy of detecting cervical cancer, atypical cells or precursor lesions.

## What are other advantages of an LBC sample?

Liquid-based samples have the advantage of being suitable for primary HPV and triage tests. Should primary HPV testing be performed, cytology and other ancillary tests can be performed on the same LBC sample within 30 days of it being taken. This offers greater flexibility in pursuing comprehensive results for your patients.

At Ampath Laboratories, an LBC Pap test allows a **comprehensive screening approach** with **improved accuracy** to screen for cervical cancer.



## Fast Facts

### Why LBC?

- Cervical cancer screening (Pap test) saves lives
- LBC offers a better quality sample
- An LBC sample is free from the limitations of a conventional Pap smear
- The price of LBC is R269.60 and is subject to a 20% discount when paid upfront

### Do more with less!

- Collect one sample
- Perform additional testing, such as HPV subtyping
- Enables a more comprehensive screening approach