

# THE NANOGRAM

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services

Winter 2007



## Important Phone Numbers

● Need lab results from the Clinical Lab call 982-7170 or fax 982-7164.

● Need lab results from the Anatomic Pathology Lab 982-7955 or fax 982-7944.

● AP Client Services Representative, Noel Jorgensen, at 244-5525

● Outreach Department at 982-7183

**Happy New  
Year from  
everyone at  
Laboratory  
Services!**

### Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter is from the Laboratory and will be distributed on a quarterly basis. It will relay important information and news briefs concerning laboratory services.

### HPV In House

In an effort to improve the turn-around-time of HPV results, the Cytology laboratory has evaluated technologies available for HPV testing to select the best method for performing HPV tests in house. We had information sessions and on-site visits from Digene Corp. reps to learn about the hybrid capture methodology used by the reference laboratory performing our HPV test currently, and also conducted an on-site trial of an available slide-based insitu hybridization method, in addition to an investigation of other available methods. Our decision has been to bring the Digene Hybrid Capture II system into our laboratory, which will give continuity to our HPV testing (it is the same method currently used for our HPV's), but will allow us to obtain results sooner, and also to eliminate most, if not all, "Equivocal" results by following Digene recommendations for retesting and determining a definitive result on those specimens. We are currently finalizing a contract with Digene and should begin performing HPV testing on liquid-based Pap specimens within the next two months

### Ordering HPV

With the public attention on HPV from TV, radio advertisements for the new vaccine, and increased interest in HPV testing, we want to assist you in providing HPV testing on your patients when appropriate. There are various ways HPV testing can be ordered on SurePath liquid-based specimens submitted to MJH Cytology.

#### **Conventional Pap smears:**

- HPV testing cannot be done on conventional Pap smear slides.

#### **SurePath liquid-based specimens:**

- If a Pap test is desired, the "SurePath Pap Test" box should be checked, with the following options for HPV testing available by checking the indicated box on the MJH Gynecologic Consultation Request:
  1. "Reflex HPV Test (on ASCUS only)" - if checked will *ONLY* cause HPV testing to be performed and included in the Pap report *IF* the interpretation of the Pap test is Atypical Squamous Cells of Uncertain Significance.
  2. "HPV test (on all diagnoses)" - if checked will cause HPV testing to automatically be performed and included in the Pap report regardless of the Pap interpretation.
- If a Pap test is NOT desired, on the MJH Gynecologic Consultation Request form HPV is ordered by checking the "HPV Only (no morphologic diagnosis)" box, and NOT checking the "SurePath Pap Test" box above.

In addition to the desired Pap testing and/or HPV testing, Chlamydia/ N.gonorrhea and/or Herpes I & II can also be requested, or can be ordered alone on a specimen by checking the corresponding box(es) on the Request.

Add-on requests can also be made for HPV, Chlamydia/N.gonorrhea, and/or Herpes I & II, however, the laboratory encourages desired tests to be ordered when the specimen is submitted to aid us in efficient and proper specimen handling and in prompt result reporting. Also please note we may not be able to process Add-on test requests for specimens more than 1 month old due to the limitations of sample shelf-life.

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## Lab Leaders

### Nancy Lewis, MT (ASCP)

Director, Lab  
Services

### Jeff Willy, MT (ASCP)

Anatomic Pathology  
Manager

### Carolyn Dotson, MT (ASCP)

Lab Operations  
Manager

### Thea Alterman, MT (ASCP)

QC/QA Manager

### Bette Webber, MT (ASCP)

Lab Administrative  
Manager

## Pathologists

### R.Hunt MacMillan III, MD

Medical Director, Lab

### Thomas Dudley, MD

Director of Histology

### Laura Spinelli, MD

Director of Cytology,  
Hematology,  
Serology,  
Coagulation, and  
Urinalysis

### David Rowe, MD

Director of Blood  
Bank

## Cytology: 2 Patient Identifiers and Change in CTNG (Chlamydia trachomatis/N. gonorrhoea) testing

For patient safety, as outlined by JCAHO requirements, Martha Jefferson hospital requires each specimen be labeled with the 2 identifiers of full name and date of birth. The Cytology laboratory thanks all physician offices for complying with this request! Please remember when labeling liquid-based Pap smear specimens to write the patient identification on the vial label or affix a label printed with patient identification, and when labeling conventional Pap smear slides to write the patient identification on the frosted end of the slide *in pencil* (laboratory staining process will remove ink/marker).

In order to improve our service, the Cytology lab has switched Chlamydia/ N. Gonorrhoea testing, ordered on Liquid-Based Paps, to Quest reference laboratory. This change will improve our turn-around-time for test results.

## To OB & Family Physicians

We are having an increase in the number of OB patients delivering at MJH without a blood type and/or antibody screen for the current pregnancy on record at our facility.

Our policy follows the recommendations of the "American Association of Blood Banks." To assess the need for a cord blood workup, if we do not have a blood type/Rh from the current pregnancy, we will draw the patient to perform these tests resulting in an additional blood draw and associated charges.

## Glucose Tolerance Testing

### Testing for Diabetes Mellitus

- **GTT2** is the American Diabetes Association recommended test for assistance in diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus. A fasting sample is drawn, the patient is administered 75 gm dose of glucola, and blood glucose level is drawn 2 hours post glucola. The patient must be fasting for this test.

### Testing for Gestational Diabetes

- **GL50** is a screening test for gestational diabetes, performed on pregnant women. The patient is administered a 50 gm dose of glucola and a blood glucose level is drawn one hour later. It's best if the patient is fasting but the screening test can be performed on a non fasting pregnant woman.
- **GTT3** is a 3 hour glucose tolerance test used to confirm gestational diabetes. A fasting sample is drawn, the patient administered a 100 gm dose of glucola, blood glucose levels are drawn at 1, 2, 3 hour intervals. The patient must be fasting for this test. Note: This test is no longer recommended by American Diabetes Association as a diagnostic test for non-pregnant individuals.

**The next Nanogram newsletter will be Spring 2007  
distributed on April 9th.**