

The 2001 Bethesda Reporting System

Gynecologic Cytopathology Reports

The 2001 Bethesda System is used for reporting results of gynecological specimens. The primary interpretation is shown between asterisks on the final report and has three general categories:

1. Unsatisfactory for Evaluation: The smear does not yield diagnostic information. Additional statement(s) will state the reason that the specimen is unsatisfactory
2. Negative for Intraepithelial Lesion or Malignancy: This indicates that the findings are normal.
3. Epithelial Cell Abnormality: This category is used to indicate there are abnormal cells present. Additional statements in the body of the text will describe the severity and type of the abnormality, and may include a recommendation for further action.

Additional statements that may appear in the body of the text include: presence of organisms, presence or absence of endocervical cells (non-hysterectomy patients), obscuring elements, hormonal levels, location of testing (if not the lab where specimen is submitted). A statement of adequacy will follow these additional statements. The bottom portion of the report contains patient clinical information submitted on the requisition.

Non-Gynecologic Cytopathology Reports

The primary interpretations used for reporting are:

1. Unsatisfactory Specimen for Evaluation
2. Non-Diagnostic
3. Negative for Malignancy
4. Suspicious for Malignancy
5. Highly Suspicious for Malignancy
6. Positive for Malignancy
7. Diagnosis
8. No Category – for cases that require an explanatory text, similar to a histology report.

Additional statements about the specimen contents, cellular abnormalities, or other findings will follow the primary diagnosis when applicable. An adequacy statement will follow the additional comments. The bottom portion of the report contains patient clinical information submitted on the requisition and the gross description of the specimen.