

REPORTING CERVICAL CYTOLOGY NOTES FOR ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY REGISTRARS

Principle 1: **Have a systematic approach and stick to it.** This will save you from errors on the inevitable days when you are distracted / too busy / tired. If you do this formally at first, it will become automatic (and much faster) later.

Principle 2: **Read both the request form and the NCSP history.** This is essential. Don't report any slides without both of them.

1. The request form: age, all clinical details provided, who the report will be sent to.
2. An up-to-date NCSP Register history.

Principle 3: **Look at the slide and make your own decision** before you consider the opinions of others. This discipline will serve you well in honing and regularly testing your own professional judgement.

The following is one approach: find one that works for you.

1. Low-power scan → check endocervical component. Is the cellularity satisfactory?
2. Look at maturation, background, any organisms.
3. Look at the dotted cells.
4. Perform a variable amount of screening depending on the case.

Check: Do you need a repeat preparation/cell block?

→ **Decide on your opinion.**

Principle 4: **Write a report that you believe in.** Always. It is your report. Don't be swayed by anyone else's opinion unless/until you are personally convinced that it is the best way to report the case.

1. Look at the screeners' opinions. Get to know the individual screeners you work with. Every individual has strengths/weaknesses (including you).
2. Look at the slide again if you need to, in the light of your own/others' opinions.
3. Reconsider the clinical context: patient details/NCSP history/any other information that may be available (colposcopy findings, concurrent biopsies).

Check: i. What will the clinical implications of my report be?

ii. Do I need another opinion?

Principle 5: **Get a second opinion if**

- (a) There is a **significant discrepancy** between what you think, and what other experienced staff think.
- (b) The **clinical implications** of your report **are major**.

→ **Decide how you will report the morphology.**

Principle 6: **Write a report that will help the clinician.**

Formulate the recommendation for your report.

Check: Is there anything else needed/helpful? e.g. a recommendation for oestrogen prior to further samples or colposcopy.

→ **Sign out the case.**