

## Indeterminate/Unsatisfactory / Inadequate results

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### 1. Insufficient HPV samples are reported as Indeterminate

- HPV platforms report error codes or flags due to insufficient volume or blood clots detected as failed samples which are reported as indeterminate.

### 2. Common reasons for unsatisfactory cytology results

- Scant cellularity (most common and can be seen in post-menopausal women)
- Entire cervix not visualised (if cervix present)
- Screening test repeated too soon (less than 3-month interval)
- Cervix swabbed prior to test being taken
- Presence of foreign material (e.g., lubricant)
- Obscuring inflammation
- Obscuring blood
- Excessive cytolysis or autolysis (broken cells usually caused by bacteria or excessive force used on broom when rinsing)

**Please remember that a sample must not be repeated before the minimal 3 three- month interval, as this allows time for cells on the cervix to regenerate after a screening test.**

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### Points to remember to help avoid unsatisfactory results

- Visualise the entire cervix.
  - Insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal deep enough to allow the shorter bristles to fully contact the ectocervix.
  - Using pencil pressure, rotate the broom in a clockwise direction five times.
  - Rinse the broom as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt solution vial by pushing the broom into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. As a final step, swirl the broom vigorously to further release material.
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