

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Transvaginal laparoscopy: a minimally invasive approach to obtain brush cytology of the Fallopian tube

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PII: S0301-2115(17)30105-7
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.ejogrb.2017.03.002>
Reference: EURO 9806

To appear in: *EURO*

Received date: 29-11-2016
Revised date: 14-2-2017
Accepted date: 1-3-2017

Please cite this article as: Gordts Stephan, Campo Rudi, Bogers JP, Tanos Vasilis, Segært Isabelle, Valkenburg Marion, Puttemans Patrick, Gordts Sylvie. Transvaginal laparoscopy: a minimally invasive approach to obtain brush cytology of the Fallopian tube. *European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2017.03.002>

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Abstract

Objective: To evaluate In a prospective pilot study the feasibility of cytobrushing of the fimbrial end using a transvaginal endoscopic access.

Study design: prospective feasibility study. The procedure was performed in a consecutive series of 15 infertile women referred for a transvaginal laparoscopy as part of their fertility investigation.. Tubal cells were collected using a 5Fr cytobrush. Cytology and immunocytochemistry was done.

Results: In all patients enough cell material was obtained for analysis, without traumatizing the fimbrial end. Specimens showed the presence of a sufficient amount of cells enabling standard cytologic examinations and immunocytochemistry (Ki 67, p53).

Conclusion: fimbrial cytobrushing using the transvaginal approach is an easy and minimally invasive procedure. The easy accessibility of the fimbrial end and the distal ampullary part at TVL allows an accurate collection of tubal epithelial cells. In view of the recent data reporting the Fallopian tube and more specifically the fimbrial end as a possible origin of ovarian carcinoma, further research is needed to evaluate the potential of this technique as a possible screening method for patients at risk for ovarian cancer.

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