



Appendix C: Cervical Cytology Terminology used by BC Cervical Cancer Screening Program

Terminology used prior October 1, 2010	Bethesda System Terminology after October 1, 2010
Unsatisfactory: state reason	Unsatisfactory: state reason
Negative; no atypical cells are seen	Negative for intraepithelial lesion or malignancy (NILM)
Benign changes due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> • <i>Monilia (Candida sp.)</i> • cellular changes suggestive of herpes simplex viral infection • inflammation • radiation effect 	NILM reactive change due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> • fungal organisms morphologically consistent with <i>Candida sp.</i> • cellular changes associated with herpes simplex virus • inflammation • treatment effects
Some cases of mild squamous dyskaryosis, atypia not otherwise specified (NOS), or benign changes	Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US)
Some cases of moderate or marked squamous dyskaryosis, or atypia NOS	Atypical squamous cells, cannot exclude HSIL (ASC-H)
Mild squamous dyskaryosis	Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL)
Moderate squamous dyskaryosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marked squamous dyskaryosis • some cases of suspicious squamous cells 	High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate • marked
Some cases of suspicious squamous cells Malignant squamous cells	Squamous cell carcinoma
Malignant glandular cells	Adenocarcinoma
Malignant epithelial cells	Carcinoma, unspecified
Mild glandular atypia Some cases of moderate glandular atypia	Atypical glandular cells, not otherwise specified (AGC-NOS)
Some cases of moderate glandular atypia Marked glandular atypia	Atypical glandular cells, favour neoplastic (AGC-favour neoplastic)
Suspicious glandular cells	Adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS)

Source: BC Cancer Agency. Screening for cancer of the cervix – An office manual for health professionals. (10th Ed). 2013.