



CYTOLOGIST

What do I do?

I am a health care professional who provides advanced diagnostic services and physician support by integrating morphologic interpretations with companion technologies.

My typical day includes:

- **Microscopically evaluate** patient cell samples for evidence of infection, or neoplasia.
- Collaborate with cytopathologists to determine **companion technologies** needed to provide quality patient care.
- **Performs Rapid On-Site-Evaluation (ROSE)** during patient biopsy procedures to ensure adequate tissue procurement for diagnostic and prognostic studies.
- Independently **evaluate cervicovaginal cytology specimens** to issue a final report for specimens showing no evidence of abnormality.
- **Selects and marks appropriate cells of interest** in a cytologic sample to present to a pathologist for diagnostic interpretation.
- **Triage cytologic specimens** for the appropriate companion diagnostic methodology on a case-by-case basis; including but not limited to immunohistochemistry, special stains, flow cytometry and molecular diagnostics.
- Develops **differential diagnosis** based on synthesis of appropriate case data during morphologic evaluation of small diagnostic samples, and cell blocks samples.
- Cytologists are proficient in all aspects of the **preparation of cytology samples**.

Necessary Skill Sets



FLEXIBILITY



PROBLEM SOLVING



ATTENTION TO DETAIL



CRITICAL THINKING

Salary

Mean Annual Salary*: \$90,700
(Median: \$92,000)

Certification

[Earn certification as a Cytologist \(CT\) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification \(ASCP BOC\).](#)

Education Requirements

Minimum Bachelor's Degree, Cytologist Certification or a master's degree

* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location and years of service and other factors.