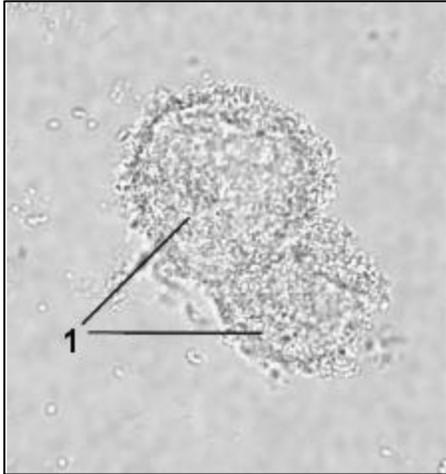


Wet Mount Proficiency Test 2003 B - Critique

Micrograph A – 400x magnification

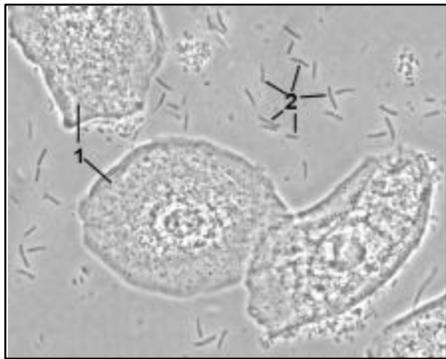


1

[x] Squamous epithelial cell(s) - a clue cell

There are two squamous epithelial cells under that mat of microbes. The cells are round rather than the usual plate like shapes which suggests that these epithelial cells are from around the cervix. Cells in that area tend to be rounder or cask shaped. The fact that no cellular details, not even the edge, can be observed in these two epithelial cells is the deciding factor in whether to call them 'clue cells' or not.

Micrograph B – 400x magnification



1 2

[x] [] Squamous epithelial cell(s) - not a clue cell

[] [x] Lactobacilli

The first objects are clearly well defined squamous epithelial cells with internal detail and well defined edges. Yes, they have some internal granularity, but that is normal. The second objects indicated are lactobacilli. These bacteria usually appear as long thin rods, although they can form short chains. Other bacterial that might be observed, such as streptococci, would tend to be smaller, in pairs or chains. Other rod shaped bacteria, such as *E.coli* would

appear shorter and rather stubby.

Micrograph C – 1000 x magnification



1 2

[+] [] Yeast cell(s)

[x] [] Pseudohyphae

[] [x] Sperm cell(s)

The first objects indicated are pseudohyphae with (some budding yeast cells), this was the preferred response and the answer given by most participants. Yeast observed was also accepted, although this is not what we were looking for. In the strictest sense, the cells budding off the pseudohyphae are called 'microconidia' rather than yeast cells. The second and smaller object is a sperm cell. This is a composite micrograph composed of material from the Wet mount

control material (you might be able to note the bacterial cells in the background) and a sperm cell from another specimen. The objects are intentionally lined up to demonstrate the differences in size, shape, and structure.