



# Self-Collection for Anal Cancer Screening in Gay Men

**Mary Lou Miller**

**The Vanguard Project**

British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, BC.



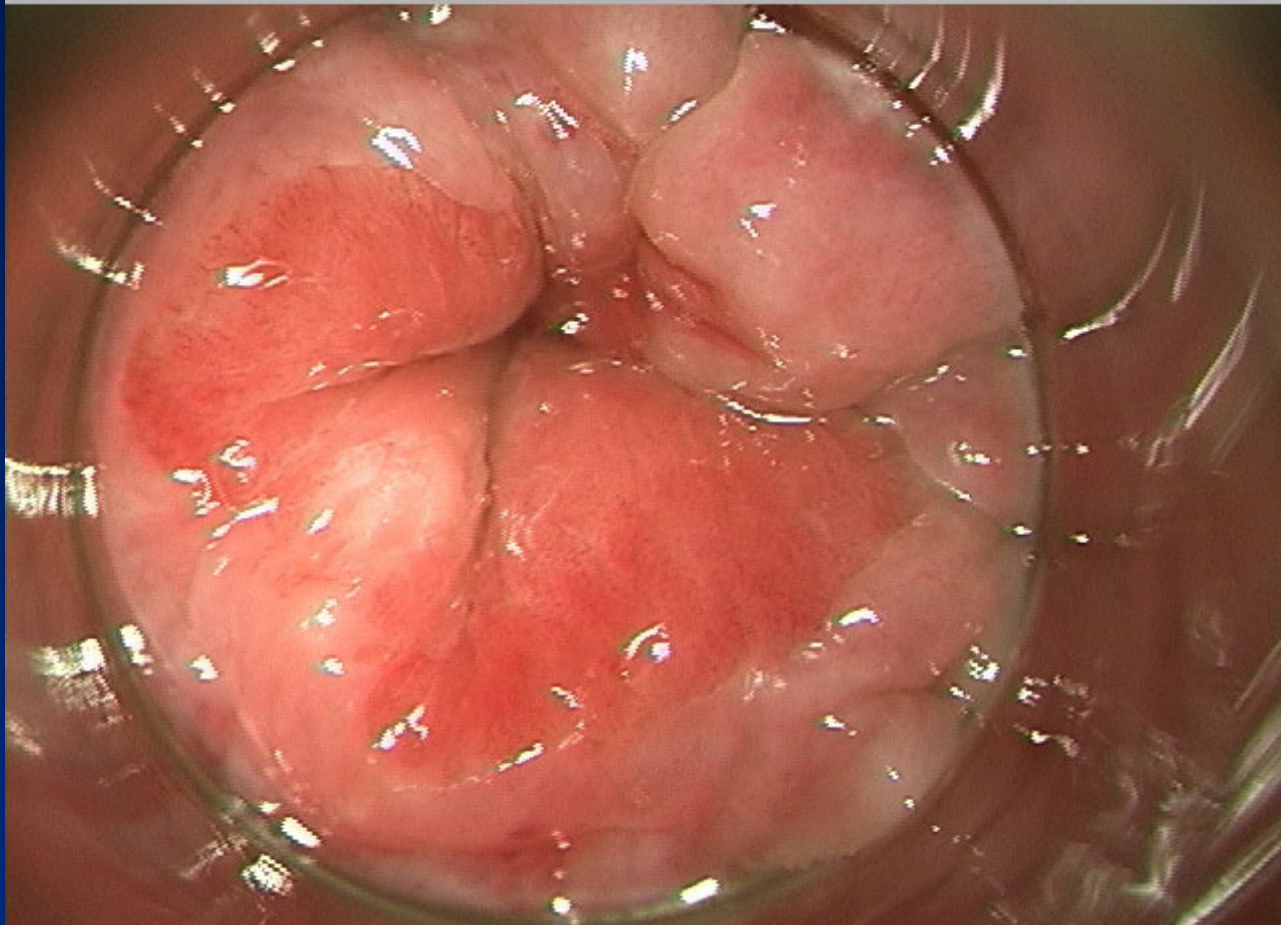


- Anal cancer is rare in the general population (0.8 cases per 100,000 person-years)
- However, anal cancer is estimated to be 80 times more common in gay and bisexual men
- There are at least 100 types of HPV viruses that infect humans, a small number of which may cause cancer

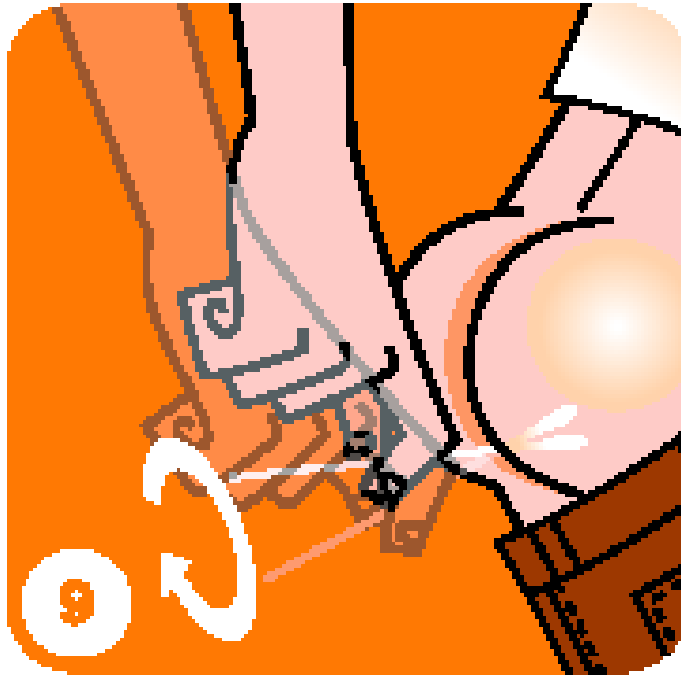


# Anatomical Slide of Normal Anus

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# Self-Collection Instructions



**Move the swab ONCE in a large circle, pressing gently against the inside of your anus.**



# Cytology Results

- Normal
- Abnormal
  - ASCUS (atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance)
  - Low Grade
  - High Grade
- Inadequate for reading



# Study Objectives

**To compare client and clinician collection procedures with regard to three endpoints:**

1. Adequacy of the cytological specimen
2. Detection of cytological abnormalities
3. Client's subjective experiences

# Study Objective #1

## Adequacy of Anal Swab Specimens for Cytological Assessment

| CLIENT-Collected | CLINICIAN-Collected | NUMBER | %     |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| INADEQUATE       | INADEQUATE          | 8      | (4)   |
| ADEQUATE         | ADEQUATE            | 180    | (81)  |
| ADEQUATE         | INADEQUATE          | 7      | (3)   |
| INADEQUATE       | ADEQUATE            | 27     | (12)  |
|                  |                     | 222    | (100) |

- Overall, clinician = 93%, patient = 84% (p = 0.006)

# Study Objective #2

## Detection Of Cytological Abnormalities

| CLIENT-collected | CLINICIAN-collected | NUMBER | %     |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| NORMAL           | NORMAL              | 140    | ( 63) |
| ABNORMAL         | ABNORMAL            | 26     | (12)  |
| NORMAL           | ABNORMAL            | 28     | (13)  |
| ABNORMAL         | NORMAL              | 28     | (13)  |
|                  |                     | 222    | (100) |

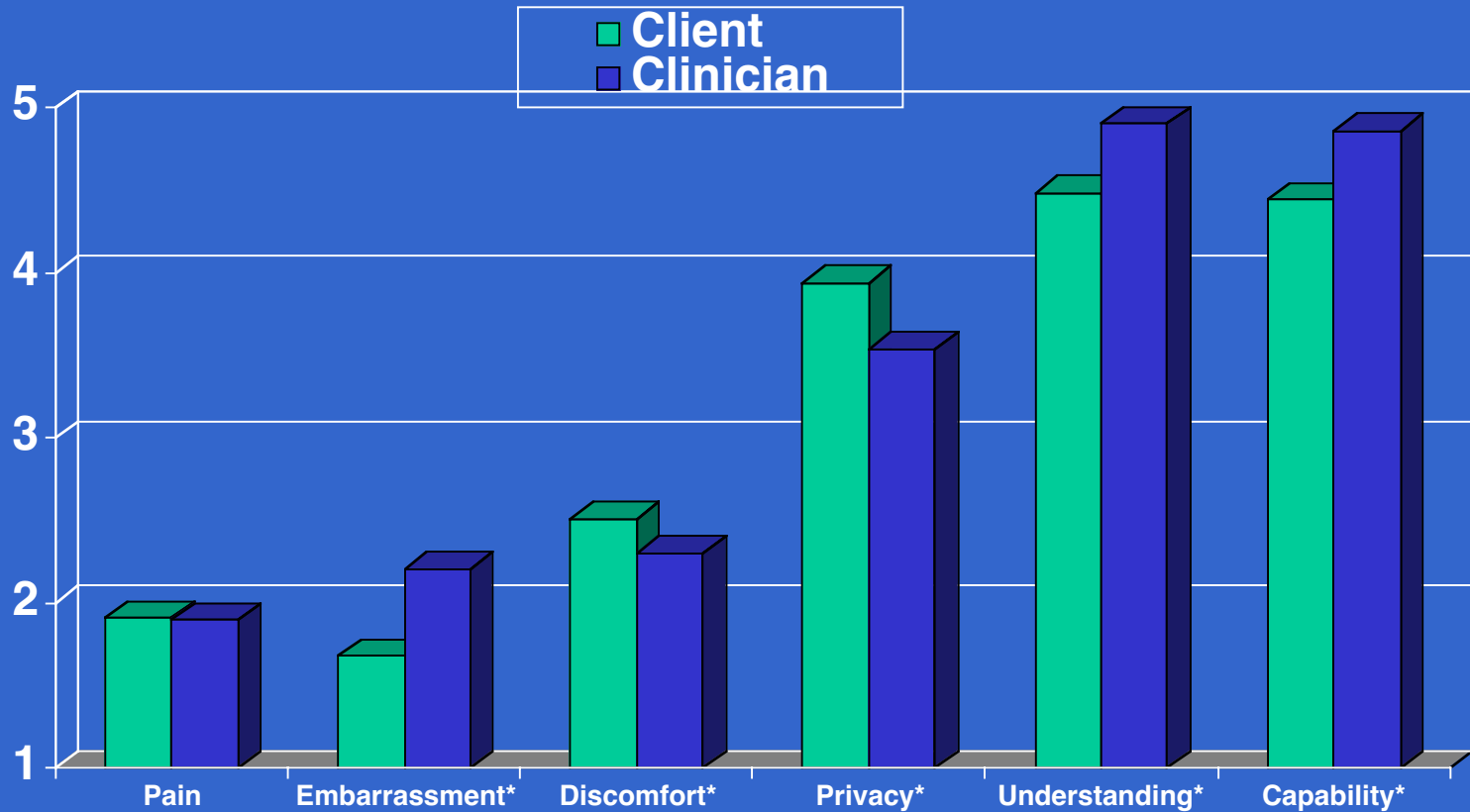
# Study Objective #3

## Client's Subjective Experience Using a Five-Point Scale

A lot

Somewhat

Not at all




\*significantly different



## Of the 222 Participants:

- 28 were HIV sero-positive
  - 14 had normal Paps
  - 14 had abnormal Paps
    - 2 of these abnormal on biopsy showed *in situ* squamous cell carcinoma



# “Should we be screening HIV+ men?”

- In our study, 14/28 (50%) were abnormal
- In the literature, the vast majority of HIV positive men are abnormal
- Perhaps all HIV+ men should be referred for anoscopy

# Summary

- 1. Adequacy** - client-collected swabs were, on average, less adequate than clinician- collected swabs
- 2. Detection of Cellular Abnormalities** - However client and clinician rates of detection of cellular abnormalities were not different



## Summary (continued)

**3. Compared to clinician-collection, clients on average rated their own swab collection as:**

- No different with regard to pain
- More uncomfortable
- More private
- Less embarrassing
- Less well-understood
- Less capably performed

# Conclusions

- Self-collection of anal swab specimens in research (and possibly clinical) settings is feasible and acceptable to clients
- Follow-up studies should aim to further improve the adequacy of self-collected specimens

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