



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure



## Cell

The cell is the basic unit of life. Collections of cells form tissue, such as muscle, and organs, such as the heart. Pathologists examine cells to diagnose disease as infected or cancerous cells often have a different appearance from normal cells.

Cytopathology is the diagnosis of disease by examination of cells in smears or fluids. Cervical smears are examined to identify pre-cancerous cells.