

Cytology Collection Technique – Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy – Image guided (External Client)

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Note: If there is any clinical suspicion of lymphoma, please call the cytology lab for adequacy assessment.

Materials Checklist:

1. Cytology requisition with all pertinent clinical and specimen information
2. Glass microscopy slides labeled with the patient name on the frosted end in pencil (NOT pen)
3. Appropriate sampling device, syringe and needles
4. Specimen container with Cytolyt fixative and a Cytology Fixative label
5. Cytospray fixative
6. Cardboard slide folder
7. Alcohol wipes, sterile gauze, gloves
8. Biohazard Specimen Transport Bag

(For materials ordering see Cytology Materials List File name:[ecol015.doc](#))

Aspiration Technique

The aspiration technique will be determined by the radiologist / aspirator.

Preparation Technique

For the first sample:

1. Remove needle from syringe and pull air into syringe. Replace needle.
2. Place **one drop** of material in the centre of the labeled slide close to the frosted end.
3. With the long edge of the second slide held at 90 degrees, smear material along the slide length of the first slide.
4. Fix the smeared slides immediately with cytospray held no closer than 6 inches to the slides. If adequate material has been aspirated, you will see white particles on the slide.
5. Place the remaining material into the container with Cytolyt solution by gently pulling a small amount of solution up into the syringe and slowly expelling the sample back into the specimen container. **It is important that the majority of the material be fixed in Cytolyt rather than on the smear.**
6. If the aspirate is bloody or scant, repeat the procedure. Additional samples should be rinsed directly into the Cytolyt solution, without preparation of additional smears. We recommend a maximum of 3-4 passes (samples) since the diagnostic yield plateaus after this.
7. Allow the slides to dry completely before placing in a cardboard folder for transport.
8. Fill in the requisition with patient identifiers and clinical history. **Remember: clinical impression is essential to accurate diagnosis.**

Cytology Collection Technique – Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy – Image guided (External Client)	Page: 2 of 2
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Send the specimen in a biohazard bag to Cytopathology Laboratory, LHSC-University Hospital, using the porter system for delivery to the Pathology Specimen Receiving Area (PathSRA) at each campus.

For any further information, please call Cytopathology at LHSC-University Hospital, extension 36392 during regular working hours.