

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION TECHNIQUES/SPECIMEN PREPARATION

Equipment:

20 ml. disposable plastic syringe
22 gauge needle (1 ½ or 3 ½ inches long)
Alcohol prep sponges

FNA kit for cytology available from PSIP on request. Includes:

4 frosted end glass slides
2 bottles of 95% alcohol fixative for cytology (green label)
1 plastic container of CytoLyt Transport Medium
1 bottle of 10% formalin for tissue specimens
Sheet of instructions for handling fine needle aspirations for cytology

Preparation of Smear:

Place the bevel of the needle against the top portion of a glass slide, and about one-half inch below the frosted portion. Gently express a small drop onto the slide without splattering. Do this quickly on two to four slides, then immediately make smears as follows:

Place a glass slide on the drop and wait for approximately a second for the drop to spread between the slides, then quickly but smoothly pull the top and bottom slides apart in a parallel direction. Immediately place the slides back to back and place into a bottle of 95% alcohol fixative for cytology. After four slides are prepared, place the rest of the material in the syringe in the plastic container of CytoLyt by drawing the fixative up into the syringe and expelling it back into the container. If a lymphoid malignancy is suspected, RPMI should also be used so that flow cytometric immunophenotyping can be performed.

NOTE: REMOVE NEEDLE FROM SYRINGE. Specimens submitted with needle attached to syringe will be subject to rejection.