

Fine-Needle Aspiration

A cytotechnologist is available for rapid on-site assessment of specimen adequacy and slide preparation Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact cytology at Sparrow's main hospital (517) 364-2301 or cytology reference laboratory (517) 371-9411.

Cytolyt and Tissue Culture Media (RPMI) can be arranged by contacting Sparrow Call Center (517) 371-9500.

- **Specimens from different anatomic sites need to be clearly labeled on containers and slides with specimen source and laterality when appropriate. Two patient identifiers (patient's full name, date of birth, or medical record number) must also be included.**
- Label a Cytolyt container with patient's full name (first and last name), date of birth or medical record number. Also include specimen source on container and laterality (right or left) when appropriate.
- Label 2 glass slides with patient's full name (last, first name), date of birth/or medical record number and specimen source. Please include left or right when appropriate.
- Place a drop of aspirated specimen on the upper two thirds of a glass slide.
- Place second slide on top of aspirated material and smear specimen down the slides.
- **Immediately** fix one slide with cytology spray fixative.
- Indicate "fixed" and "air-dried" on the slides.
- Rinse the remaining specimen in Cytolyt solution.
- Collect an additional pass or two, aspirate directly into Cytolyt container.
- An accompanying requisition with patient's full name (first and last name), date of birth, medical record number, specimen source, ordering physician's name, date of collection, diagnosis, and pertinent patient history.

Note: If Hematologic malignancy is suspected dedicate two additional passes into a container of Tissue Culture Medium (RPMI) for flow cytometry testing and transport immediately or refrigerate.

If infectious process is suspected, please submit a portion of the specimen to microbiology in an appropriately labeled sterile container with saline or **fresh** without fixative. Once the specimen is smeared and/or put in an alcohol it cannot be cultured. If saline is added please indicate on container.