

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION

The efficacy of fine needle aspiration (FNA) as a diagnostic procedure is largely dependent on proper techniques both for procuring the specimen and for handling the cellular material obtained. The following is a guide to assure quality preparations of fine needle aspirations:

General Instructions:

- 1) Obtain syringe and appropriate gauge needle.
- 2) Place the needle bevel lightly against the slide with no intervening air space. This positioning of the needle helps prevent drying artifacts in alcohol fixed smears.
- 3) Using air pressure from the syringe, express a small amount of material onto the slide.
- 4) While holding the specimen slide by the frosted end, place a second slide face down on top of the specimen drop. As the drop spreads from the weight of the top slide, the two slides are quickly, but gently pulled apart horizontally.
- 5) Immediately fix the bottom slide with the cytology spray fixative and allow the top slide to air dry.
- 6) Once the direct smears are made, quickly rinse the needle and syringe in CytoLyt[®] solution. Label the vial with the patient's name.
- 7) Place the smears in a cardboard or plastic slide holder. Make sure both smears are labeled with the patient's name and indicate the air-dried smear by writing "AD" on the frosted end of the slide.
- 8) Send the 2 slides and needle rinse in a specimen transport bag to the LabOne, Inc with a completed cytology requisition. Remember to include all pertinent patient history on the requisition.

Physician's offices may obtain CytoLyt[®] solution and cytology spray fixative by calling LabOne, Inc at 513-353-6000, option #3.

Hospital departments can obtain CytoLyt[™] vials through CYTYC Corporation, item number 0236080, (30 ml vials), 1-800-442-9892.

To schedule an FNA procedure at a Health Alliance hospital that requires cytotech assistance, email an appointment to Lab-FNA-scheduling through Groupwise. Include the hospital site in the subject line as well as the hospital department where the procedure will be performed.