

SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE for Surgical Pathology/FNA/Non-Cytology



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Specimen Type	Collection Medium		Testing Options	Notes
Skin/Soft Tissue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viable skin (punches and shaves) Soft tissue (subcutaneous masses) Viable nail unit (punches, excisions) 	Formalin Fixative (Except punch biopsies obtained for the purpose of EPIDERMAL NERVE FIBER DENSITY testing, ENFD specimens MUST be placed in Zamboni's fixative.)		Routine Histopathology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM) Immunohistochemical Stains (S100, Melan-A, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skin neoplasms (pigmented and verrucous lesions, masses, ulcerations) Dermatitis (tinea, eczema) Subcutaneous masses (lipoma, ganglia)
Non-Gynecological Body Fluids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascitic Fluid Bronchial Washings and Brushings Cerebrospinal Fluids Gastric Washings and Brushings Nipple Discharge Pleural/Peritoneal Fluids Sputum Ureteral Washings and Brushings Urine Other Fluids 	Fresh (sterile cup)		Non-Gynecological Cytopathology Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM) False-Negative rates for fungal identification may be increased with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedingly small samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General impression (neoplastic and inflammatory diseases may be suggested by superficial samples; however, definitive diagnoses are uncommon) Refrigerate upon collection
Bone	Formalin		Routine Histopathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osteomyelitis, neoplasms, exostoses
Bone	Fresh (sterile cup) Aerobic and/or anaerobic swab E-swab (aerobic and/or anaerobic cultures)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify organisms causing osteomyelitis Specimens may be, if large, wrapped with gauze moisturized with saline or, if small, embedded within media within swab Anaerobic specimens should not be exposed to oxygen for more than 30 minutes (place in e-swab or anaerobic swab)
Aspiration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint fluids 	Fresh (sterile cup) or in dehydrated alcohol		Routine crystal analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for monosodium urate crystals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masses, cysts 	Fresh (sterile cup) or in formalin		CYTOLOGY (study of cells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ganglion cyst, benign and malignant neoplasms
Bacteriology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wounds Aspirations 	Fresh (sterile cup)		Aerobic culture & sensitivity	Superficial tissues
	E-swab or Swab with GEL		Aerobic and anaerobic culture & sensitivity	Deep tissue
	Aerobic Swab (without GEL)		Aerobic culture & sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specimen should NOT be exposed to oxygen more than 30 minutes If the specimen is viable and received at MPA, it will be forwarded to a preferred reference laboratory
Fine Needle Aspiration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast Neck Head Thyroid 	Fresh (sterile cup), two air-dried slides and two fixed slides		Non-Gynecological Cytopathology Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cysts (fluid-filled lumps), nodules or masses (solid lumps) and enlarged lymph nodes Refrigerate upon collection