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FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION (FNA) CYTOLOGY COLLECTION GUIDE

Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) with Slides	• Numerous superficial palpable and deep seated, non-palpable lesions can be aspirated utilizing multiple imaging modalities.
	• Only fine needles (i.e. 22g or thinner) should generally be used for cytology specimens.
	  ○ Choose needle size (22g - 27g) appropriate for location and nature of the lesion.
	  ○ Note: For certain cases (e.g. EBUS, EUS), a slightly larger needle may be used.
	  ○ Otherwise, tissue collected with larger needles are considered core biopsies, which should be placed in formalin and ordered/processed as surgical pathology specimens.
	• Using a pencil, label 2 glass slides with patient's full name and DOB, along with the letter "F" (for fixed) on one slide and the letters "AD" (for air dried) on the other; repeat for each FNA pass.
	  ○ Write specimen source on each slide (e.g. right neck) under DOB.
	  ○ **Leave space on label for lab to write case number.**
	  ○ Do NOT write any of the following on slide labels: MRN, doctor's name, or date/time.
	  ○ Do NOT use any kind of ink (ballpoint pen, fine point Sharpie, etc.) to label slides.
	• Aspirate lesion.
	• Carefully expel a drop of specimen from syringe near middle of slide labeled "F"; using a blank slide, gently smear specimen down the slide away from the label.
	  ○ Do NOT expel or smear specimen onto the upper 1/3 of the slide near the label.
	  ○ Immediately spray with cytology fixative and allow to dry completely.
	• Carefully expel a drop of specimen from syringe near middle of slide labeled "AD"; using a blank slide, gently smear specimen down the slide away from the label.
	  ○ Do NOT expel or smear specimen onto the upper 1/3 of the slide near the label.
	  ○ Allow slide to air dry completely.
	• Note: Alternatively, specimen may be expelled onto either the "F" or "AD" slide then smeared by sandwiching the slides together and **gently** pulling them apart in opposite directions.
	• Rinse the needle and syringe several times in a properly labeled container of sterile saline or prefilled CytoLyt container by pulling and depressing the syringe plunger.
	• After depressing plunger the final time to push all liquid out of the syringe, dispose of syringe.
	• Repeat making slides and rinsing needles for each pass until procedure is complete.
	• Tightly recap saline or CytoLyt container.
	• Discard blank slides (if used).
	• Place dry slides into slide holder (plastic or cardboard) and tape closed; label outside of holder with patient sticker.
	  ○ Do NOT place wet slides into slide holder – they must be **completely** dry prior to packaging and transport.
	• Place slides and saline or CytoLyt container into bio bag with cytology requisition.
	• If needle rinses were placed in saline, refrigerate (specimens in CytoLyt are stable at room temperature).
	• Deliver to the lab as soon as possible.

Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) without Slides	• Numerous superficial palpable and deep seated, non-palpable lesions can be aspirated utilizing multiple imaging modalities.
	• Only fine needles (i.e. 22g or thinner) should generally be used for cytology specimens.
	  ○ Choose needle size (22g - 27g) appropriate for location and nature of the lesion.
	  ○ Note: For certain cases (e.g. EBUS, EUS), a slightly larger needle may be used.
	  ○ Otherwise, tissue collected with larger needles are considered core biopsies, which should be placed in formalin and ordered/processed as surgical pathology specimens.
	• Aspirate lesion.
	• Rinse the needle and syringe several times in a properly labeled container of sterile saline or prefilled CytoLyt container by pulling and depressing the syringe plunger.
	• After depressing plunger the final time to push all liquid out of the syringe, dispose of syringe.
	• Repeat for each pass (if multiple passes are made of same lesion).
	• If multiple anatomical sites/lesions are being sampled, use a separate properly labeled container of sterile saline or CytoLyt for each individual anatomical site/lesion.
	• Tightly recap saline or CytoLyt container.
	• Place saline or CytoLyt container(s) into bio bag with cytology requisition.
	• If needle rinses were placed in saline, refrigerate (specimens in CytoLyt are stable at room temperature).
	• Deliver to the lab as soon as possible.