

Path Logic, Inc.
CYTOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION

NON-GYN PREPARATION

Cytology specimens should be sent to the laboratory as soon as possible after they are obtained

SPECIMEN TYPE	SPECIMEN REQUIREMENT	SPECIMEN PREPARATION	TYPE OF FIXATIVE
Body Cavity Fluids	10 mL minimum Try to collect the maximum amount possible	Use standard paracentesis or thoracentesis equipment in clean collection container	Heparin may be added to reduce clotting. Keep specimen refrigerated or kept on wet ice until transport to lab.
Breast Nipple Secretions	Direct smear of nipple discharge	Label two (2) clean glass slides.	Spray Fixative or 95% ethanol.
CSF Specimens	Minimum of 0.5 mL	Standard CSF collection	Can be maintained with prompt refrigeration for 24 hours.
Urologic Specimens	50 mL of urine	2 nd morning voided urine, midstream catch	Refrigerated or kept on wet ice until transport
GASTROINTESTINAL SPECIMENS			
Gastrointestinal Brushings (Esophageal, GE Junction, Gastric, Duodenal, Bile Duct, Other)	Endoscopically-directed brushing of identified lesion	Fasting patient- Labeled slides	Fix immediately with Spray Fixative or place in 95% ethyl alcohol.
Gastrointestinal Washings (Esophageal, Gastric, Other)	10 mL preferred	Fasting patient- Clean plastic specimen container	Immediate refrigeration or wet ice – If transport will be longer than 4 hours add equal amount of 50% ethyl alcohol
PULMONARY SPECIMENS			
Sputum	5 mL (about 1 tsp.) minimum- More if possible	Deep cough 15-30 minutes after waking- before food	Equal amount of 95% ETOH or refrigeration up to 24 hours.
Bronchial Brushings	Bronchoscopically-directed brushing of identified lesion.	Roll/smear brush on slides DO NOT submit brush	Coplin jar with 95% ETOH
Bronchial Washings	10 mL washing- Bronchoscopically – obtained minimum	Collect in 120 mL clean plastic container(s)	Add equal amounts of 95% ETOH
Bronchoalveolar Lavage	20 mL minimum of Bronchoscopically-obtained lavage	BAL specimens sent for culture must be split from main specimen prior to transport	DO NOT add fixative

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Oral Scrapings	Direct smear	Label slides and immerse in 95% ethyl alcohol	Immediately re-immersesmeared slides
Fine Needle Aspirations	Adequate cellular material	For direct smears use labeled single-end frosted slides IF smears are not prepared flush aspirated material into RPMI.	95% Ethyl Alcohol
Tzanck Smears	Direct smears of material collected	Four clean, labeled glass slides	Allow two slides to air dry Place two slides in 95% ETOH
Conjunctival Scrapings	Direct smears of material collected	Two (or more) labeled glass slides.	Spray Fixative
GYN PREPARATION			
Cervical, vaginal, or endocervical (Conventional Pap)	Direct smear	Prepare thin smear	Immediate fixation with Spray Fixative or 95% ETOH
Cervical, vaginal, or endocervical (Liquid-based ThinPrep)		Collect specimen following the manufacturers' instruction.	Preserve the sample in the preservative vial provided by Cytoc. Do not submit the brush/broom