



Eastside Pathology, Inc., P.S. Specimen Collection Manual

For More Information Please Call us at 425.646.0922

BRONCHIAL/LUNG

Collection and Submission

Non gyn *fluid* cytology specimens may be submitted fresh, or in PreservCyt (preferred) solution. In all cases, fluid specimens should be refrigerated immediately after collection and kept refrigerated until the EPI courier can pick them up.

Note: Non-GYN specimens with less than optimal volume will be processed as usual and the volume stated in the gross description. It will be the responsibility of the reviewing cytotechnologist and pathologist to determine specimen adequacy. If the specimen container is essentially empty upon receipt either due to leakage into the secondary biohazard transport bag or scant specimen collection, the specimen will be handled as a problem specimen and the submitting nurse or physician will be notified.

Note: EPI does not accept specimen syringes with the needle attached. Needles must be removed and discarded by the submitting physician/clinic.

Smears prepared by clients may be submitted in two ways:

1. Fixed immediately in 95% alcohol or Pap-Pak fixative to prevent air-drying of the specimen.
2. Submitted air-dried for re-hydration or special stains to the lab (preferred). **If smears are air-dried, this must be clearly indicated on the requisition.** Failure to do so may result in sub-optimal specimen preparation.

Under no circumstances should any specimens for cytology be placed in formalin. Cytology specimens received in formalin are not satisfactory for cytological preparation and cannot be processed.

PREPARATION

1. For unprepared specimens (sent in fluid form), write the patients name, specimen source and the date on the outside of the container.
2. For prepared specimens submitted on slides, use a pencil to write the patients name on the frosted end of the slide.
3. Complete the requisition, including the following patient information:
 - a. Test ordered
 - b. Patient name
 - c. Physician name
 - d. Date of examination
 - e. Date of birth
 - f. Source of specimen
 - g. Insurance information
 - h. Any pertinent clinical information
 - i. Number of vials/slides being sent
 - j. Place the container/slides inside a biohazard bag and the requisition into the side pouch

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Specimens may be submitted in one of three ways.

Washings

1. Submit fresh, in saline or add an equal volume of PreservCyt to the specimen.
2. Cap tightly and refrigerate.

Brushings

1. Using a pencil, write the patients name on the frosted end of two slides.
2. Smear specimen on slides and fix with 95% alcohol or Pap-Pak fixative **BEFORE** cells air dry, or allow smear to air dry and *indicate that sample is air dried on requisition.*

Sputum

1. Sputum from the deepest parts of the lung, the most desirable for cytology, is easiest to obtain the first thing in the morning.
2. Immediately after awakening, before eating or drinking, rinse the mouth with water and cough lightly to clear the throat and remove surface phlegm.
3. Open the air passages in the lungs by breathing as deeply as possible several times
4. Take a deep breath and cough forcefully until it feels like something is being coughed up.
5. Expectorate material into a specimen container.
6. Repeat for three consecutive mornings, using a separate container each morning.
7. Cap tightly and refrigerate.