# CYTOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION
## FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION

All slides and specimen containers must be labeled with patient name and specimen source and accompanied by a completed requisition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS</th>
<th>Result availability from time received in the Lab</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepared and fixed slides.</td>
<td>Specimen Collection</td>
<td>2-3 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needle rinse in Cytolyt Solution.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Cytolyt solution is preferred for thyroid aspirations and excessively bloody aspirations.

**Materials:**
- Slides
- Pencil (write patient name on slides)
- Pap bottle with 100% reagent alcohol
- Cytolyt Solution
- Requisition
- Biohazard bags for transport

**Procedure:**
Pre-label frosted-end of slides with the patient’s name. Prepare 2 slides per pass. Be sure to put the aspirated material on the correct side of the slide (the side with the patient’s name written). Touch two slides together to spread the sample, then immediately place in Pap bottle.
Expel any remaining aspirated material directly into Cytolyt Solution. Rinse needle in the Cytolyt solution. Do not leave needle in Cytolyt solution. Use a new needle and syringe for each pass.
Place Cytolyt solution and Pap bottle in zip pouch of Biohazard bag and place requisition and extra labels in back pouch.

**Procedural Notes:**
Refrigeration of specimens in Cytolyt is not necessary.
Air-drying of slides limits interpretation.
Excessive blood may limit interpretation.
A negative or non-diagnostic report does not completely rule out abnormality or malignancy.