

CYTOLOGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cytopathology is a discipline that involves the morphologic study of cells. It is broadly divided into exfoliative (Gynaecological and Non-gynaecological) and aspiration cytology.

2.0 LIST OF TEST PROVIDED

The following types of specimens are processed here:

- i. 'Fine Needle Aspiration for Cytology' (FNAC)
- ii. PAP Smear (Gynaecological cases)
- iii. Non-gynaecological specimens:
 - Aspirates
 - Brushing
 - Fluids (pleural, ascitic, pericardial, CSF, urine, joints)
 - Sputum
 - Discharge, smears

3.0 REQUEST FORM

- 3.1 FNAC and non gynae - The form to be used is PER – PAT 301 (A4 size) filled in duplicate.
- 3.2 PAP smear- PS 2/2007 form (Refer List of Forms)

*** All relevant information must be filled up before sending to the laboratory.**

4.0 SPECIMEN COLLECTION

4.1 Body Fluids/CSF

- 4.1.1 Specimens are collected into sterile containers and sent to the lab for urgent processing.
- 4.1.2 If there is a delay of more than 12 hours, specimen should be collected with similar volume of a 50% ethyl alcohol as fixative.

4.2 Bronchial Aspirate and Washing

- 4.2.1 Specimen is collected and sent to the laboratory immediately.

4.3 Bronchial Brushing/Gastric Brushing

- 4.3.1 Brush should be rotated gently but rapidly on a small area of the slide and the smear fixed in 95% ethyl alcohol immediately.

4.4 Sputum

- 4.4.1 Morning specimen is required i.e. before breakfast after rinsing mouth with water.
- 4.4.2 Deep cough specimen is required.
- 4.4.3 Cough into a side mouth receptacle and despatch for immediately processing.
- 4.4.4 If there is a long delay, sputum can be collected into a container with 50% alcohol (15 – 20 ml) as fixative.
- 4.4.5 Three samples, a few days apart if possible, are required to eliminate false negative.

4.5 Urine

- 4.5.1 A catheterised specimen is preferable.
- 4.5.2 Collect random urine specimen direct into a clean container and despatch to the laboratory for processing.
- 4.5.3 If there is a delay, collect it in an equal volume of 50% ethanol and despatch.

Note: Use of fixative is discouraged as it can alter the cytology. It is highly recommended that a freshly collected specimen be sent to the laboratory immediately.

4.6 Fine Needle Aspiration for Cytology (FNAC)

FNA procedure must be done by trained medical officer.

Consent must be taken by the operator prior to the procedure.

Schedule for FNAC appointment:

Day	Time	Clinic	Operator
Tuesday	9.30am-1.00pm 3.00pm-5.00pm	SOPD	Medical officer SOPD
FNA test done under u/s, CT, MRI guidance	During office hours but appointment must be made at least a day before (through ext. 155)		

4.7 Nipple Secretions

4.7.1 Specimen should be collected by applying the slide directly to the nipple, followed by immediate fixation and air dried.

4.8 PAP Smears

4.8.1 Specimen to be collected prior to bimanual examination.

4.8.2 Use an unlubricated speculum (if necessary only water may be used)

4.8.3 No douching or sexual intercourse prior to specimen collection.

4.8.4 For conventional PAP smear, the specimen collected is smeared on the glass slide and immediately fixed in 95% liquid ethyl alcohol for a minimum period of 30 minutes or alcohol spray.

4.8.5 For liquid based cytology, according to company instruction of sampling.

5.0 DESPATCHING SPECIMEN

5.1 All specimens are to be labelled clearly and should bear the same identification as that written on the request forms.

5.2 Routine specimens should be sent to pathology laboratory main counter. Urgent specimens may be sent directly to the Cytology Lab at the Pathology Department.

6.0 REPORTING AND DESPATCHING OF RESULTS

All cytopathology reports from HSJ clinics and wards shall be collected every day by respective clinic/ward staff from histopathology quarters.

The PAP smear result from Health Clinics (SPU, SPT, SPS) will be put in the envelop and will be kept in the respective Health Clinic's Beg in the Histopathology Laboratory. The cytopathology report shall be collected every day by the respective Health Clinic staff from the Histopathology Unit.

7.0 COMMUNICATION

Any enquiry of the services provided, kindly contact:

Histocytopathology Unit

Ext. 155

Pathologist

Ext. 603/ 160 / 357

8.0 SUMMARY OF TEST

No	Test	Container	Specimen	Schedule	LTAT
1.	Fine needle aspiration (FNAC)	Microscope slide with frosted end	Aspiration from lump	Daily (Based on appointment)	-Urgent: 3 working days -Non-urgent: 14 working days
2.	Non-gynae cytology	Plain container (without fixative)	Body fluid	Daily	-Urgent: 3 working days -Non-urgent: 10 working days
3.	Cervical cytology	Slide with frosted end or liquid based container	Cervical smear	Daily	-Urgent: 14 working days -Non-urgent: 6 weeks