

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Body cavity fluids (ascites, peritoneal, pleural, or pericardial fluid)

Body cavity fluids are commonly evaluated for the presence of malignant cells from metastatic disease. Body cavity fluids in general are relatively easy to obtain and are relatively difficult to compromise.

Indications

Detection and characterization of malignant cells in body cavity fluids.

Specimen Required

Minimum 10 mL (>10 mL preferred, 200 mL optimal) of fluid obtained from an appropriately performed paracentesis or thoracentesis.

Supplies

- Standard paracentesis or thoracentesis equipment.
- Clean collection container of appropriate size.

Specimen Collection:

Using standard paracentesis or thoracentesis technique, obtain a fluid specimen from the desired body cavity.

- Place collected material into appropriate sized container.
- For samples up to 25 mL in volume add an equal amount of cytology fixative.
- For larger volume samples, shake the specimen to resuspend cells, then aliquot 50 mL of the specimen to another container. Add 50 mL of cytology fixative.
- For really large volume of body fluids, shake the specimen to re-suspend cells; aliquot two 50 cc portions to separate containers. Add 50 mL cytology fixative to one of these; label "FIXED". Label the other container "FRESH".
- Label specimen(s) with the patient's full first and last name and second unique identifier. Submit the specimen to Incyte along with the completed cytology request form.
- Unfixed specimen should be refrigerated or kept on wet ice until transport to the lab.