
BREAST DISCHARGE

Synonyms

- *Breast Discharge*
- *Nipple Discharge*

Notes:

1. There are two techniques for specimen collection:
 - Preferred method using liquid-based collection (monolayer).
 - Alternate method using glass slides (smear).

Preferred Method – Test Code: 9012 / CPT Code: 88112

Alternate Method – Test Code: 9003 / CPT Code: 88161

Supplies:

Liquid-Based Collection (Preferred Method):

1. Non-sterile specimen container with 30ml of CytoLyt
2. Yellow Non-Gyn requisition card
3. Biohazard Bag

Glass Slide Preparation (Alternate Method):

1. Glass slide(s) with frosted ends
2. Cytology spray fixative or coplin jar filled with 95% alcohol
3. Slide transport container
4. Yellow Non-Gyn requisition card
5. Biohazard Bag

Collection:

Liquid-Based Collection (Preferred Method):

1. USE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS.
2. Immobilize breast.
3. Nurse, assistant or patient can hold specimen container under breast.
4. Gently express breast until discharge appears.
5. Allow drop to fall into specimen container.
6. Continue to express breast in full clock-like manner.
7. Secure the lid and label specimen container with the following:
 - Patient's name
 - Physician's name
 - Source of specimen
 - Date of collection
8. Complete the yellow Non-Gyn requisition card with the following information:
 - Patient's name, birth date and sex
 - Physician's name and clinic account number
 - Source of specimen
 - Date of collection
 - All pertinent clinical information (especially history of cancer, chemotherapy and radiation treatments).
 - A separate requisition card must be filled out for each specimen.
9. Send specimen container and requisition card in a Biohazard bag to DCCC.
 - Tighten lid of CytoLyt container, place the specimen in the ziplock portion of the bag and seal it.

- Place the yellow Non-Gyn requisition card into the back pocket with the overlapping flaps.

Glass Slide Preparation (Alternate Method):

1. USE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS.
2. Using a No.2 pencil, label slides with patient's name.
3. Express breast until a single drop forms at the nipple.
4. Gently press slide against droplet and smear by moving slide lengthwise across the nipple to make an even, thin smear.
5. If more than one droplet is expressed:
 - Place material on one of the slides.
 - Place the second slide on top of the first slide and very gently pull the slides across each other in opposite directions.
6. **Immediately fix slide(s)** by immersing the slide in the alcohol for 30 seconds or by using the cytology spray fixative.
 - It is important not to allow the material on the slide to dry in any way prior to fixation.
 - After fixation, allow slide to dry, face up on paper toweling.
7. Place slide(s) into slide transport containers.
8. Complete the yellow Non-Gyn requisition card with the following information:
 - Patient's name, birth date and sex
 - Physician's name and clinic account number
 - Source of specimen
 - Date of collection
 - All pertinent clinical information (especially history of cancer, chemotherapy and radiation treatments).
 - A separate requisition card must be filled out for each specimen.
9. Send slide container and requisition card in a Biohazard bag to DCCC.
 - Place the specimen in the ziplock portion of the bag and seal it.
 - Place the yellow Non-Gyn requisition card into the back pocket with the overlapping flaps.

Storage Instructions:

1. If more than a 24-hr delay is anticipated between collection and receipt in the laboratory, please refrigerate specimen.
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