TZANCK TESTING

Synonyms
- Herpes cytology
- Tzanck smear

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. Spatula or wooden scraper
2. Non-sterile specimen container with 30ml of CytoLyt
3. Yellow Non-Gyn requisition card
4. Biohazard Bag

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

Collection:
Liquid-Based Collection (Preferred Method):
1. USE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS.
2. Remove necrotic material to reach fresh specimen area and scrape underlying lesion.
3. Rinse scraper as quickly as possible into the CytoLyt container.
   - Swirl the spatula vigorously in the vial 10 times.
   - Discard the spatula.
4. Secure the lid and label specimen container with the following:
   - Patient’s name
   - Physician’s name
   - Source of specimen
   - Date of collection
5. 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.
6. 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 slide(s) with patient’s name.
3. Remove necrotic material to reach fresh specimen area and scrape underlying lesion.
4. Prepare a uniform thin smear on slides(s).
5. **Immediately fix slides** 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.
6. Place slide(s) into slide transport containers.
7. 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.
   - A separate requisition card must be filled out for each specimen.
8. 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.