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## TZANCK TESTING

### *Synonyms*

- *Herpes cytology*
- *Tzanck smear*

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### *Notes:*

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

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

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

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### *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

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### *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.

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***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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