



Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

GOUT CRYSTALS SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Joint Aspiration: Fluid

If the specimen is for gout crystals **ONLY** to rule out pseudo-gout:

- Send the specimen to the nearest lab that accepts the insurance carrier. **DO NOT SEND TO DPMG.** We do not perform this test.
- Send ASAP as a significant delay in processing compromises the exam for crystals.

If the specimen is for routine cytology to rule out inflammation, infection or tumor, send the specimen to DPMG.

- If sending a syringe, remove the needle. Cap the syringe to prevent leakage.
- Send ASAP as a significant delay in processing compromises the specimen.

If the specimen is for **BOTH** routine cytology and gout crystals, send the specimen to DPMG.

- We will split the sample, perform the routine cytology test and outsource the remaining sample for gout crystals.

Biopsy : Tissue specimen

We perform testing for gout crystals on tissue biopsy specimens.

- Tissue must be submitted fresh or in a non-aqueous fixative. Absolute alcohol is commonly used.
- If submitting in fresh state, send ASAP.

For all specimens being sent to DPMG:

- Fill out the appropriate DPMG requisition (for fluids use the cytology requisition; for tissue specimens use the biopsy requisition), including the following information:
 - patient's date of birth
 - patient's unique identification number (SS or medical record number)
 - physician's address
 - phone number and FAX number
 - cc doctor(s)
 - clinical history
 - special instructions, as applicable
 - insurance information

Without the necessary information, we are unable to process the specimens in an expeditious manner. We may call you for verification, and in some instances, we may return the specimen to you for proper labeling. This is necessary to assure that the service we provide for your patients is of the most accurate and excellent quality we can provide.

- Place the specimen and requisition in the plastic DPMG bag provided. There are separate pockets for the paperwork and the specimen.