



Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION CYTOLOGY

The use of the fine-needle technique eliminates the trauma and some of the other complications that may occur in surgical biopsy. Apart from a syringe and well-fitting needle, aspiration biopsy requires very little equipment. The length of the needles varies according to the site of the biopsy, varying from 2.5 to 6 cm. for lymph nodes, to 20 cm. for prostate or parametrium. The 18-22 gauge disposable needle with attached 10-20 cc. syringe is inserted into the predetermined mass or organ. Suction is applied as the needle is passed several times through the mass in several planes. Suction is then released and the needle withdrawn.

1. Submit the specimen to the laboratory with properly filled out requisition.
2. Submit syringe (if fluid specimen) with needle removed and safety cap attached.
3. Submit specimen in plastic biohazard specimen bag with requisition in side pocket.
4. If submitted as smears, label all slides with patient's last name, written in pencil on frosted end of slide.
5. **Always** label the specimen container with patient's name (first and last), the specimen type, the date of collection and a second identifier unique to the patient such as DOB. ***Remember, we receive specimens from many offices and last name alone will not suffice to properly identify a specimen. All primary specimen containers must be labeled with 2 identifiers.***