

NONGYNECOLOGICAL CYTOLOGY CONJUNCTIVAL SCRAPINGS – DIRECT SMEAR

I. Purpose

Direct smears are prepared to detect and characterize inflammatory or infectious processes of the conjunctiva.

II. Specimen

For Specimens Processed for Microbiology or Clinical Analysis:

Specimens intended for culture must be collected in a sterile container or in sterile saline (*without 70% alcohol or 10% neutral buffered formalin*) and *split* from the main Non-Gynecological specimen prior to transport with the proper requisition for microbiology culture or clinical testing. Consult the clinical lab test catalog for specific specimen requirements.

A. Direct smears

1. Indications

Detection and characterization of inflammatory/infectious processes of the conjunctiva.

2. Specimen Required

Direct smear of material collected from the conjunctival surface.

3. Supplies

Two clean glass slides (single end frosted), fixative (spray fixative or 70% ethanol), conjunctival scraping spatula and test requisition form.

4. Collection Procedure

- a. Label the slides with the patient's name and place in a container filled with 70% alcohol so that the slides are completely covered.
- b. Gently scrape the area of abnormality. Remove one of the slides from the fixative. Quickly and evenly smear the collected material on one of the glass slides. Immediately

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reimmerse the slide in fixative. Repeat the process with the second slide, if necessary, for better diagnostic yield.

- c. Label each slide with the patient name and site source.
- d. Submit the specimen at room temperature along with the completed HPC requisition and copies of insurance card(s).

References

- A. Koss, Leopold G MD: *Diagnostic Cytology and its Histopathologic Basis*, Volume 2, JB Lippincott Company, 1992
- B. Lester, Susan C MD, PhD: *Manual of Surgical Pathology*, Churchill Livingstone, Philadelphia, 2001.