

COLLECTION, LABELING, AND PREPARATION OF TZANCK CYTOLOGY SPECIMENS

I. **Principle:** Tzanck preps are cytological specimens for the diagnosis of Herpes Simplex lesions. Lesions from any body site can be submitted.

II. **Ordering and Labeling:**

- Order the test in EPIC using test code LAB13 for Non-Gyn cytology.
- Enter the Specimen Source.
- Enter the source description in the box on the same line at the far right of the screen.
- When the Specimen Source is entered, another box opens below it for an additional specimen.
- Fill in for as many specimens as needed. Sign the order.

- Go to the Collection activity.
- Select collect all and document collection information by:
- Click on the pencil to edit all collection information for all specimens.
- OR click on the blue hyperlinks for each specimen to edit only that specimen's collection information
- NOTE: additional sources can be added and source description can be modified during collection ONLY **before** clicking on the Print Labels button.
- Click on Print Labels.
- Label the fixative vial using the EPIC generated label. If microscopic slides are used, label the slides with the patient's name and medical record number using a pencil. Label the Microscopic slide container with the footie label.

Proper patient history is essential to the successful interpretation of a cytological specimen and is required by regulations. Any evaluation and report is, at best, incomplete without correlating the cytological studies with a complete patient history. Improper labeling may cause the specimen to be returned for proper labeling, a delay while waiting for proper labeling or the specimen to be rejected and discarded.

III. **Collection:**

Materials:

Cytobrush

Vial of Cytolyt fixative

1. Remove the intact surface layer of epithelium.
2. Using a cytobrush or plastic spatula scrape the base of the vesicle.
3. Rinse the brush/spatula in the thinprep vial immediately by rotating the brush in the solution 10 times while pushing the brush against the vial wall. Swish the brush/spatula vigorously. Discard the collection device.
4. Tighten the cap so that the black torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.
5. Place the vial and requisition in a specimen bag and transport to the laboratory.