

GASTROINTESTINAL CYTOLOGY: COLLECTION, LABELING, AND PROCESSING OF SPECIMENS

I. Principle: Cytological evaluation is useful to determine the presence or absence of malignant tumor cells, infectious processes or other diagnostic processes.

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:

Brush

Vial of Preservcyt fixative

The doctor advances a small brush with a long, flexible handle through the endoscope or needle. The end of the brush is used to scrape cells and small tissue fragments from the lining of the bile duct. Rinse the brush in the Preservcyt vial immediately by swishing the brush vigorously. Discard the collection device. Tighten the cap so that the black torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial.