

Serous Cytology Specimen Ordering Collection and Labeling v1.1

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Approval and Periodic Review Signatures

Type	Description	Date	Version	Performed By	Notes
Approval	Lab Director	4/6/2022	1.1	Simha Sastry MD Clinical Laboratory Director (M06625)	
Approval	Lab Director	4/6/2022	1.1	Ghazala Nathu MD Clinical Laboratory Director (S00134)	
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Approval	Lab Director	4/1/2022	1.1	Valerie Bush PhD Clinical Laboratory Director (M05512)	
Approval	Lab Director	3/31/2022	1.1	Timothy Chapman MD Clinical Laboratory Director (M11669)	

Version History

Version	Status	Type	Date Added	Date Effective	Date Retired
1.1	Approved and Current	Initial version	3/16/2022	4/14/2022	Indefinite

SEROUS FLUID CYTOLOGY: ORDERING, COLLECTION AND LABELING

I. Principle:

For processing serous fluid specimens, including pleural (chest cavity), abdominal (ascites or pelvic washings), pericardial or joint fluids submitted for cytological evaluation to determine the presence or absence of malignant tumor cells, infectious processes or other diagnostic processes. This procedure also includes cyst fluids.

II. Ordering and Labeling:

- Follow the EPIC workflow to order a lab test – choose 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.
- Answer the mandatory and specific questions.
- Sign the order.
- Go to the Collection activity.
- Choose which specimens to collect. Verify/update sources and comments.
- Select Print Label.
- Label the specimen container using the EPIC generated label.
- Scan the Label to document the electronic collection.
- Select Finish or Accept

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:

1. If the patient has not been ambulatory, move the patient into several positions to resuspend the cellular material within the fluid.
2. Use standard equipment and sterile procedures to withdraw the fluid.
3. If other tests are requested in addition to cytology, withdraw a portion of the specimen and submit it to the appropriate laboratory following their guidelines.
4. A minimum of 10 mls. is needed for optimum cytological evaluation. Recommend submitting entire specimen to the laboratory.
5. Do not add fixative or anticoagulant. If a delay is expected, refrigerate specimen.