

NIPPLE DISCHARGE

Used to obtain a cell sample from the breast for cytologic review in order to detect pathologic disease.

General Instructions:

1. Fill out a cytopathology requisition completely or test request on the hospital information system (HIS). (Refer to the "Specimen Collection" section of this manual for HIS instructions.)
2. Label the frosted end of the slides with the patient's name.
3. Have the cytology spray fixative ready.
4. After massaging the breast in a downward motion and discarding the first few drops of discharge, apply the slide directly to the nipple and smear the material down the center of the slide.
5. Using the cytology spray fixative, hold the bottle approximately 6-12 inches away from the slide and saturate the cell specimen. Allow the slide to dry before placing it into a carrier.
6. Place the slides and the requisition into the specimen bag.
7. Send to the Laboratory for processing.