

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)

In cytology, cerebrospinal fluids are most commonly evaluated to detect and characterize malignancy which may have gained access to the central nervous system. While in most individuals CSF specimens are relatively easy to obtain, in some individuals collection may require radiographic guidance. In addition, due to lack of nutrients in most of these fluids, cells may rapidly degenerate rendering morphologic evaluation less than optimal if adequate care is not taken.

Indications

For detection and characterization of malignant cells in the central nervous system.

Specimen Required

Minimum of 0.5 mL cerebrospinal fluid. Do not add cytology collection fixative

Supplies

- Standard cerebrospinal fluid collection equipment.
- Clean, clear 10 mL collection container for CSF.

Specimen Collection:

- Using standard CSF collection procedures, collect a minimum 0.5 mL or more of CSF.
- In general, morphology of cells within the CSF fluid can be adequately maintained with prompt refrigeration for 24 hours.
- Label the specimen with the patient's full first and last name, second unique identifier, and source/site. Submit the specimen to Incyte Diagnostics along with the completed cytology request form.

Notes:

For hospitals with a cytocentrifuge, immediate preparation of two (2) unstained and airdried cytospin preparations sent to Incyte Diagnostics with the unfixed CSF is recommended. This prevents problems with cellular degeneration during transport.