

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Skin Biopsy, Direct Immunofluorescence

Indications

- Direct Immunofluorescence testing is for difficult cases of autoimmune and inflammatory skin diseases.

Specimen Required

- A punch or shaved skin biopsy in ZEUS transport medium (not formalin).
- Indicate specimen source.

Supplies

- Clean collection container of appropriate size.
- ZEUS transport medium

Specimen Collection

- A 4mm punch is recommended
- If biopsy specimen is to be divided, use at least a 5-mm punch. An excisional biopsy may be needed. In dividing the specimen, cut with a very sharp razor blade. Do not squeeze or twist the specimen. Make a clean cut. Specimens larger than 5 mm in diameter should be divided for adequate fixation.
- Immediately drop specimen into vial of ZEUS transport medium.
- Label vial, including patient's name, identification number, biopsy site, and date.
- Seal tightly.
- Transport at room temperature

Unacceptable Specimens

- This test cannot be performed on specimens fixed in formalin.