

Blanchard Valley Health System

Blanchard Valley Hospital

1900 South Main Street, Findlay, OH 45840

Laboratory Services

Collection of Bronchoscopy Specimens (LTR32713)

Revision: 2.09

Last Updated Time: 09/01/2024

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(09/01/2024)

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Attention: Printed copies MAY not be the most current information. Please consult the Lab QMS for the current version.

COLLECTION OF BRONCHOSCOPY SPECIMENS

PRINCIPLE

Cytologic examination of cellular material from bronchoscopy specimens may aid in the diagnosis of various disease processes of the respiratory tract. Adherence to the guidelines suggested by the following procedure will yield a properly collected and preserved specimen that will give optimal results when processed by the Cytology Department.

POLICY

The following procedure provides guidelines for the proper collection, preservation, and transport of bronchial specimens to the Cytology Department. It pertains to specimens that are submitted for cytologic evaluation only. If other tests are required (e.g., cultures, chemistry), please refer to the Lab Collection Manual or contact the laboratory department concerned for instructions regarding their specific needs for specimen collection.

During second, third, weekend or holiday shifts, the specimen(s) should be taken to the main lab processing area.

Since Microbiology studies are often performed on bronchoscopy specimens, please refer to the Microbiology section of the Lab Collection Manual for instructions regarding their specific requirements for specimen collection and handling.

SPECIMEN

Patient Preparation: Per attending Physician.

Type: Bronchoscopic material including bronchial washings, bronchial lavage specimens, bronchial brushings, bronchial aspirates (e.g. Wang FNA's), and tracheal aspirates.

Handling Conditions:

1. For specimens collected within the BVH network, use "orders +add" in the main menu of Power Chart to request cytology testing. Enter Pathology Cytology Request in the search box and complete the required fields in yellow (i.e. Procedure, Clinical History, and Specimen Description) at the bottom of the screen. For specimen description, please include specimen laterality (i.e. RUL, LLL, etc.) when applicable. If additional special studies are required (e.g. fungal stain), these must be entered in the "Special Studies Requested" field. When finished, be sure to sign the order by using the sign button in the bottom right corner of the screen. Retrieve the specimen label from the designated printer and place it on the specimen container. If a specimen label is not available, please ensure that the following information appears on the specimen container: patient name,

date of birth, collection date and time, collector's initials, and type of specimen (e.g. RUL bronchial lavage or LUL bronchial brushing).

For specimens collected outside of the BVH network (i.e. FSC), properly complete a non-gyn cytology requisition form and indicate the appropriate specimen type under the heading RESPIRATORY TRACT (e.g. RLL bronchial lavage). Include the following information on the form: patient name, address, date of birth, social security number, collection date, and the name of the attending Physician or authorized agent. Please provide as much pertinent patient information as possible on the requisition form (e.g. history, present complaint, previous radiation or chemotherapy treatment). This information is extremely important for making a proper diagnosis. Be sure to indicate if microbiology cultures (e.g. routine, acid fast, or fungal) or testing is required (GMS and/or AFB stain or cell counts on lavage specimens) on the BRONCHOSCOPY FORM. Also, please include a copy of the patient's insurance information and/or insurance card whenever possible.

2. Identification Needed: All containers must be properly labeled (i.e. patient name, date of birth, date and time of collection, collector's initials, and specimen type). Container labels should also indicate anatomic locations, including laterality when applicable (i.e. RUL).
3. Collected by: Attending Physician.
4. Transportation: Please transport the specimen(s) to the cytology department of the laboratory as soon as possible following collection. Please note that bronchial brushing specimens often contain the most diagnostic material collected. Therefore, it is extremely important that they be transported to the Cytology Department as soon as possible.
5. Preservation: None, immediate processing. In the event that a bronchoscopy specimen arrives when the department is closed, the specimen(s) should be taken to the main lab processing area.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Equipment: Per attending Physician

Materials: Per attending Physician

PROCEDURE

Per attending Physician

REPORTING RESULTS

Smears and cell blocks will be reported in the routine manner for Cytology and Surgical Pathology. Due to processing factors, reports are not routinely issued for a minimum of 24 hours after the specimen has been received by the department. If there are any questions, please feel free to call the Cytology Department at ext. 55814 and speak with a Cytotechnologist or a Pathologist regarding this procedure.

REFERENCE

Johnston, William W., and Elson, Craig E., Respiratory Tract, in Comprehensive Cytopathology, Marluce Bibbo, ed., pp 322, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1990.