

Patient Collection Instructions for Cytology Sputum

Special Safety Instructions	<p>The Cytolyt™ preservative in the sample container contains methanol and is HAZARDOUS if ingested. Do not remove this preservative from the container.</p> <p>Warning! Material is a clear flammable liquid. Inhalation of vapours may cause non-specific discomfort (nausea, weakness), drowsiness with anesthetic effects and possible blindness. Swallowing as little as 10 ounces (296 ml) may cause blindness and in extreme cases death.</p> <p>First aid measures</p> <p>Inhalation: Remove patient to fresh air. If symptoms of intoxication or vision problems are apparent, get immediate medical aid.</p> <p>Eye contact: Immediately flush with clean water for at least 15 minutes. Get medical aid.</p> <p>Skin contact: Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Flush affected area with copious amounts of water. If irritation or other symptoms are present, get immediate medical assistance.</p> <p>Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting unless directed to do so by medical personnel. Give one or two glasses of water and get immediate medical assistance.</p>
Before Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain the appropriate collection containers from the Laboratory. • Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, rinse and dry.
Collecting the Sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse mouth well with water • Inhale and exhale deeply several times and cough deeply and deposit the resulting sputum directly into the preservative/container. Do not “<i>spit</i>” into the container if sputum was not produced from the cough, instead repeat cough process. • Replace the lid securely on the container. • A total of three early morning deep cough specimens collected three days in a row provides the optimal diagnostic sample
Labeling the Sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following information is required on the containers: • Last name, First Name, Date of Birth. • Personal Health Number • Date of Sample Collection • Time of Sample Collection
Sample Handling and Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you have completed the collection and labeling, place the sample in the plastic bag provided and seal the bag. • Place the completed requisition in the outer pocket of the plastic bag. Do not place requisition inside the sealed section of the bag containing the sample. • The sample in Cytolyt™ is stable for up to 7 days. • If there is any delay in submitting the sample, the sample should be refrigerated. • Check that the information on the requisition is correct and complete. • Bring the sample and the Physician’s request (requisition) to the Laboratory within 24 hours of the collection of the final sample. <p><u>Samples that are not labeled correctly and/or do not have a completed requisition will NOT be tested</u></p>

**If you have any questions please call the VIHA Laboratory Call Center
250-370-8355 or Toll Free at 1-866-370-8355**