

Bone Marrow Specimen Collection Guidelines



Bone Marrow Specimen Collection and Submission

1. Add bone marrow aspirate material to a specimen cup containing Sequester-Sol and properly label with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number).
2. Examine the aspirate for the presence or absence of spicules. If no spicules are present, add or obtain additional specimen.
3. Place approximately 5 cc of aspirate in a Sodium Heparin (green top) tube. Properly label the tube with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number) and "bone marrow aspirate".
4. Place bone marrow biopsy core in specimen cup containing 10% neutral buffered formalin. Properly label the cup with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number) and "bone marrow biopsy".
5. If a "dry tap" occurs (no visible spicules in the aspirate), place a second core biopsy in RPMI tissue transport media labeled with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number) and "bone marrow biopsy".
6. Using the aspirate material in the Sequester-Sol cup make approximately 10 coverslip slides containing bone marrow spicules and allow to air dry.
7. Place air dried coverslip smears in an envelope labeled with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number) and "bone marrow aspirate smears".
8. Obtain peripheral blood in an EDTA (lavender top) tube labeled with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number) and "peripheral blood".
9. Make two peripheral blood smears from the EDTA (lavender top) tube. Label the frosted end of the slide with two unique patient identifiers (patient name and date of birth or medical record number) using an ordinary lead pencil. Please do not use sticker labels on the smears. Place the smears in a cardboard slide container.
10. Place the Sodium Heparin (green top) tube labeled as "bone marrow aspirate", the peripheral blood EDTA tube, and the bone marrow biopsy specimen containers in a biohazard specimen bag with the pathology requisition in the outside pocket.
11. Place the slide container with the peripheral blood smears and the envelope containing the dried aspirate smears in a second biohazard specimen bag with the patient's admission demographic face sheet with ordering physician's name and insurance information, additional patient ID labels, a copy of the patient's CBC report, clinical information from the ordering physician, and if applicable, a copy of any orders from the referring oncologist.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need more information, contact Histology at Pathology Services Laboratory by phone at 479-968-6781 or 1-800-874-4904 or by email at PSLab@pathologyserviceslab.com.