

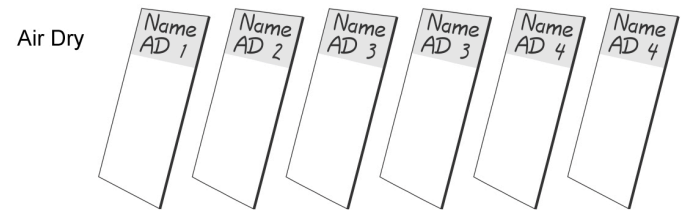
SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Smear Preparations

Slides to make smears should be labeled before the procedure begins. The pairs of slides should be labeled with the patient's full first and last name, second unique identifier, and AD as illustrated (Figure 1).

After aspiration, the needle will contain 1-3 drops of material. We request that one drop be used to make smears; the remaining material can be expelled into cytology fixative. Material in the vial can be used for monolayer preparations and cell block slides; if sufficient, IHC and special stains can be performed on difficult cases.

The smears can be prepared by placing a single drop of the aspirate in the center of a labeled ("AIR" - see below) frosted end of slide. The drop can be expressed using the air initially introduced into the syringe. Otherwise, detach the needle from syringe and fill the syringe with air. Replace the needle and carefully express one drop of specimen. The needle bevel needs to be pointed down toward the slide during expulsion.



Lay out and label slides prior to aspiration **Figure 1**

Aspiration Slide Preparation

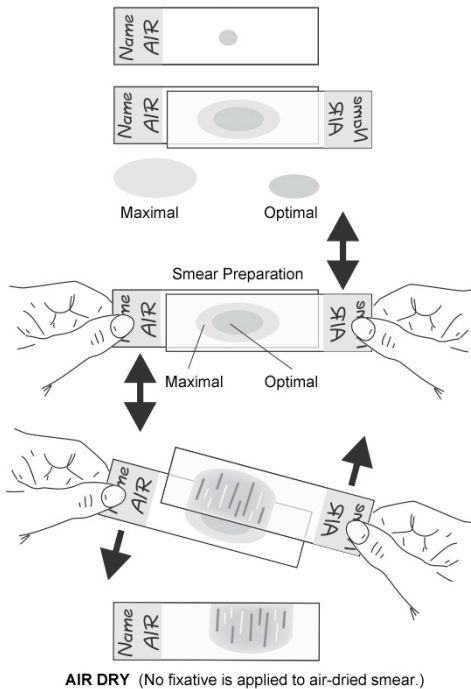


Figure 2

The material remaining in the needle can be rinsed with cytology fixative by an assistant before or during smear preparation to prevent clotting of material remaining in the needle and hub.

A second, clean, labeled ("AIR" - see below) frosted end slide is then placed face to face over the drop. The drop will spread into an oval, thin, monolayer. Small tissue particles flatten out and become more easily visible. Allow the specimen pool to spread by natural cohesion between the slides. The weight of the slide alone will spread the drop material, it is not necessary to squeeze the slides together. This monolayer is then smeared gently by sliding the slides in opposite directions.

Try not to lift the slides apart when making the smears. The slides should be pulled apart before the specimen pool stops spreading to reduce crush artifact and to keep the slides from tightly adhering. The slides are allowed to air dry. These slides need to be labeled "AIR" along with the patient name (Figure 2).