Gastrointestinal Tract

Gastrointestinal tract specimens range from oral all the way down to anal. There are useful techniques provided to obtain an optimal specimen collection. The use of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) guided is useful in retrieving samples from the biliary tract or pancreatic head.

Oral / Anal Lesion

DIRECTIONS

Direct sampling using a wooden or plastic spatula, tongue blade or brush is recommended. Smear the sample onto a slide and drop slides in 95% alcohol. The sampling tool can also be swished into saline or 95% alcohol. Suction is also acceptable. Place the specimen in saline or 95% alcohol containers. **Do not allow the slides to air dry.**

All other GI by endoscopy (esophagus, stomach, intestines, colon)

DIRECTIONS

It is recommended that a Cytotechnologist is present to assist in properly collecting and preparing the specimen. However, if unable to have Cytotechnologist present, the specimen should be placed on a slide and the "Pull Apart" technique (F 1b) be preformed following these directions:

- Place specimen in the center of one slide, with label up
- Invert another slide over the specimen
- As the specimen spreads gently, pull the two slides apart horizontally
- Place both slides in 95% alcohol immediately, before air-drying occurs
- Any additional slides made should follow the same directions
- Send the specimen in the 95% alcohol to laboratory immediately

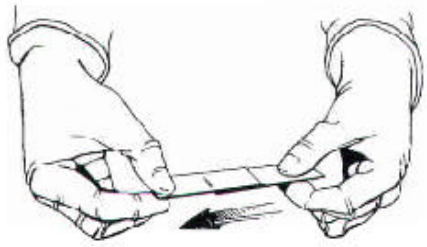

Figure 1b

ESOPHAGEAL BRUSHINGS recommends the "Touch Prep" technique.

DIRECTION

Take the brush and gently touch the upper portion of the slide three times. Then roll the brush 360° at the lower portion of the slide. Make as many slides as possible and drop half of the number of slides in 95% alcohol and air-dry the other half.

Also placing the entire specimen in saline or 95% alcohol containers are acceptable. Send the specimen to the laboratory immediately or refrigerate until able to bring specimen to laboratory.

NOTE: All slides must be labeled with patient's full name or the specimen will be rejected

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