

Skin

Making slides from a skin lesion is relatively simple and painless.

DIRECTIONS

Scrape the lesion with a wooden or a plastic spatula. Smear the specimen onto the slides. Make sure the specimen is not too thick (unable to screen thick smears) or not too thin (may air-dry the specimen). Drop the slides into 95% alcohol as soon as possible. Obtain as much sample from the specimen and make as many slides possible. **Do not allow the slides to air dry.** If a different lesion is scraped, a separate requisition form is required. Please refer to the *Cytology Specimen Requisition* for directions when more than two sites are sampled.

Placing the entire specimen in a container of saline or 95% alcohol is also acceptable. Forward the specimen to the laboratory immediately or refrigerate until able to transport the specimen to the laboratory.