

Flow Cytometry

SAMPLE REQUIRED: Peripheral blood, effusion fluid or lymph node / other organ aspirates.

BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED: EDTA

Indications:

- For evaluation of leukaemias, lymphocyte rich effusion fluids and suspected lymphoma of nodes or other organs.
- To differentiate reactive and neoplastic expansion of lymphocytes.
- To classify lymphoma or lymphoid leukaemia as T or B cell.

Collection Protocols:

Peripheral Blood:

1. Collect minimum of 2ml of blood into EDTA tubes. Prepare 2-3 air dried smears.

Effusion fluids:

1. Collect a minimum of 2ml of effusion fluid into EDTA tubes. Prepare 2-3 air dried smears.

Lymph node or organ aspirates:

1. Place 1 ml of normal saline (0.9% NaCl Solution but not Hartmann's solution) in a 2ml EDTA tube and add 0.1 to 0.2 ml of serum from the patient or another animal of the same species.
2. Aspirate the lymph node or other organ mass using suction and squirt the contents of the needle and syringe into the EDTA tube with saline and serum.
3. Draw up saline through the needle and gently squirt back into tube to obtain more cells.
4. Carry out this process several times if possible – the saline should be cloudy.
5. It is also recommended that 3-4 well made smears also be made by direct FNA of the lymph node or mass in question for simultaneous cytological examination as well.

Keep samples refrigerated until collection.

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