

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION BIOPSY COLLECTION TECHNIQUE

Fine needle aspiration biopsy by a pathologist or physician is indicated whenever a patient has a palpable mass and there is a need to establish a morphologic diagnosis. Proper technique is critical to obtaining a good specimen for diagnosis.

PROCEDURE:

1. Relevant clinical history and a specific indication for the FNA must be established. This may be done directly from the patient, from the chart, or from the computer system.
2. A consent form must be obtained from the patient or the patient's guardian.
3. Examine the patient and determine the site for the aspiration as well as the technique. Determine the number of slides required and any special studies that may be required. Have the necessary slides and material immediately available and labeled with the patient's name, DOB, and if necessary the specific site.
4. Disinfect the skin with alcohol swabs or Betadine swabs. Allow the disinfectant to air-dry.
5. Fix the mass to be aspirated using the fingers of the non-aspirating hand. Using a 10cc syringe and a needle with a clear hub (22-25 gauge) and an appropriate length, insert the needle perpendicular to the skin and withdraw the plunger to 10ccs. Sharply move the needle within the mass with excursions of 0.3 to 0.4cm., redirecting and rotating the needle slightly. Stop when material appears in the hub of the needle. Release the suction and withdraw the needle. Place 2 x 2 gauze over the puncture site.
6. Remove the needle from the syringe and fill the syringe with air. Replace the needle and direct the tip close to the frosted end of the slide. Place a drop of aspirated material on the slide. While holding the specimen slide by the frosted end place a second slide face down on top of the specimen drop. As the drop spreads from the weight of the top slide gently pull the two slides apart. To fix, place the slides immediately in 95% alcohol or spray-fix with cytology fixative. Some of the slides may also be air dried.
7. Any remaining material may be aspirated from the needle hub by filling the syringe with CytoLyt solution obtained from Physicians Laboratory and expelling it back into the container of fluid. Rinse the syringe several times this way.
8. Both air-dried and alcohol-fixed smears may be obtained.

