

Got Cells?

Tips for Improving Your Suspected Lipoma Cytology Samples



DO:

- 1) Use a larger gauge needle
 - 20-22 gauge, 18 if safe for patient
- 2) Woodpecker technique may yield more cellular sample
 - If NOT contraindicated for the patient
 - Do not use if mast cell tumor suspected
- 3) Allow slide to air dry 10-15 minutes prior to staining
- 4) Stain the slide appropriately
 - Dip slide 1-2 times in fixative (i.e., solution 1 or aqueous methanol step)
 - Then leave in the fixative jar 1-2 minutes
 - Proceed with staining as usual (i.e., 10-15 second dips each in eosin and methylene blue, then rinse)
- 5) Allow slide to air dry and add immersion oil/coverslip
- 6) Scan slide as usual
 - Include as much of the slide in the scan mask area as time permits

DON'T:

- 1) Use a small gauge needle
 - 23 gauge or smaller, unless necessary for patient safety
- 2) Dry slide for prolonged period of time (i.e., overnight) as cellular preservation will decline
 - If slide is greasy, it will never appear dry
- 3) Underfix the slide
- 4) Heat fix the slide
- 5) Choose small scanning masked areas unless slide appears highly cellular

Suspected Lipomas with Good Sample Prep:

