

DATE:	14 April 2025
TO:	Physicians, Radiology, Respiratory, Operating Room Staff, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Medicine Hat Regional Hospital - Anatomical Pathology
RE:	Fine Needle Aspirate Collection Changes

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Anatomical Pathology at MHRH is requesting a change in collection practices for the collection of all fine needle aspirate samples. We have recently discovered that PD-L1 testing requested on cell blocks preserved with CytoLyt® has not been validated by the referral testing site. We are asking for all aspirate collections to now be split between CytoLyt® fixative and saline. CytoLyt® is still required for liquid-based cytology preparation. Saline is the safest collection material to use for the creation of a cell block to ensure PD-L1 testing can be performed.

Background

- Previous collection of fine needle aspirates, all passes were put into CytoLyt® preservative.

How this will impact you

- To ensure there are no implications to ordering PD-L1 on cytology samples, please start collecting some of the sample into ~7.5ml saline.

Action Required

Please collect, at minimum, 1 pass into each:

- 7.5ml CytoLyt® for thin prep creation using liquid-base cytology.
- Approximately 7.5ml of saline for the creation of a cell block. Please ensure collection container has been labelled with "saline".
- For Flow Cytometry requests on FNA's - please submit passes fresh into a sterile orange top container. If required, AP staff will add tissue transport media (TTM) once received in Lab.

Effective IMMEDIATELY

Questions/Concerns

- MHRH Histology contact** – Kaylee Dereniwski, MLT II – 403-529-8830 ext. 1556 or 1205
- South Zone Cytology contact** – Shari Harding, Cytotechnology MLT II – 403-388-6162

Approved by

- Megan L. Brown, MD, FCAP, FASCP | Regional Site Chief | Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, Alberta Precision Labs