

Specimen Type:

Breast Secretion

(Nipple Discharge)

Patient Preparation:

As ordered by M.D.

Specimen Collection:

Gently express the nipple and subareolar area only using the thumb and forefinger. Allow a “pea-size” drop of fluid to collect upon the nipple tip. Immobilize the breast and using the nipple, collect the material directly onto a glass slide then make direct smears by opposing a second glass slide onto the first, allowing the collected material to provide surface tension between the two slides. Then quickly and gently, with minimal pressure, pull the two slides apart in a horizontal motion to distribute the material in a thin film over both slides. Direct smears must be fixed immediately with spray fixative or immersed in 95% ETOH. Repeat the complete procedure with additional slides until all available secretion is used. Alternatively, collect specimen in cytology fixative.

Specimen Requirements:

Specimens must be submitted fixed. Indicate left or right breast on each slide/container.

Handling/Transport:

Send fixed specimen to laboratory. If direct smears are spray fixed, allow the fixative to dry before placing slides in plastic slide container.
