

Specimen Type:	Tzanck Smear (Direct smear for viral screening)
Patient Preparation:	As ordered by M.D.
Specimen Collection:	The suspect lesion should be pre-moistened with saline. If possible, a fresh vesicle should be chosen that has not ruptured and crusted. With a sterile object, carefully open a fresh vesicle. If there are no fresh vesicles, remove the crust from a ruptured lesion. Using the edge of a spatula (or glass microscope slide) scrape the inside margin of the lesion. The edges of the lesion will have the best yield of cells with morphologically recognizable inclusions. Carefully spread the obtained material on an alcohol moistened microscope slide and spray immediately with cytology spray fixative or immerse in 95% ETOH.
Specimen Requirements:	Fixed direct smear. Source of specimen must be given, e.g. lip, arm lesion
Handling/Transport:	If direct smears are spray fixed, allow the fixative to dry before placing slides in plastic slide container.
