

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION BREAST/NIPPLE DISCHARGE

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Frosted end glass slides Fixative (95% alcohol or cytology spray fixative)

PROCEDURE:

1. Express the secretion by gently compressing the areolar area between the thumb and index finger, first vertically, then in a clockwise direction to include the total area. When a mass is palpable, gently milk the space between the mass and the areolar area before expressing the secretion.
2. Smear the secretion lengthwise onto a clean glass slide and place immediately in 95% alcohol or spray with fixative. If spraying with fixative take care to hold the slide no closer than 8-10 inches away while covering with one layer of fixative.
3. If the secretion is thick use another clean glass slide to spread the material more evenly.
4. Representative cells of the lesion may not be present on all the preparations. Prepare as many slides as possible from the entire secretion and number the slides sequentially.
5. If possible, prepare at least one air-dried smear in addition to the alcohol-fixed smears.

