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<th><strong>Lab Dept:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Anatomic Pathology</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Test Name:</strong></td>
<td><strong>BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE CELL COUNT AND DIFFERENTIAL</strong></td>
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**General Information**

**Lab Order Codes:** Bronchoalveolar Lavage Cell Count

**Synonyms:** BAL, cell count; Bronch washings, cell count; Bronchial brushing, cell count

**CPT Codes:**
- 89050 – Cell count
- 88108-26 – Smear and interpretation

**Test Includes:** When ordered, nucleated cell count and manual differential, culture, special stains for microorganisms, other special stains.

**Logistics**

**Test Indications:** Useful for differential diagnosis and management of interstitial lung disease, sarcoid, histiocytosis, and hypersensitivity.

**Lab Testing Section:** Anatomic Pathology and Hematology

**Phone Numbers:**
- MIN Lab: 612-813-5875
- STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Monday - Friday

**Turnaround Time:** 1 - 3 days

**Special Instructions:** N/A

**Specimen**

**Specimen Type:** Bronchoalveolar washings

**Container:** Screw capped, sterile vial

**Draw Volume:** 40 - 70 mL of bronchoalveolar washings

**Processed Volume:** Varies depending on orders.

**Collection:** Maintain sterility and forward promptly at ambient temperature only.
Special Processing: Specify need for counts and stains on the Bronchoalveolar Lavage Form (available from lab)

Patient Preparation: Physician preference

Sample Rejection: Insufficient specimen; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:**
- Differential Macrophages: 80 - 90%
- Lymphocytes: 10%
- Nucleated Cell Count: 10 - 15 x 10⁶/100 mL

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Wide variability in cell type and numbers are recovered. Standardized volumes and concentrations are not yet established.

**Methodology:** Light microscopy

**Contraindications:** Severe hypoxemia with impending respiratory failure.

**References:**
- Rosai, Juan MD, Ackerman’s Surgical Pathology, 8th ed, vols 1 and 2, CV Mosby
- Sternberg, Steven (1997) Histology for Pathologists, 2nd ed, Lippincott/Raven