
Lab Dept: Anatomic Pathology

Test Name: CYTOLOGY, HERPES

General Information

Lab Order Codes: PVI; Tzanck Smear for Herpes

Synonyms: Herpes

CPT Codes: 87207 – Special stain for inclusion bodies or parasites
88160.26 – Cytopathology, smears, any other source; screening and interpretation

Test Includes: Tzanck Smear Preparation/Cytological Examination

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful to establish the presence of herpes virus infection and to aid in the diagnosis of vesiculobullous skin or mucosal disorders.

Lab Testing Sections: Anatomic Pathology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Monday - Friday

Turnaround Time: 1 - 2 days

Special Instructions: Call lab for a Tzanck Smear Kit (phone numbers above). The slides should be fixed at the collection point with the fixative contained in the kit. Forward to the laboratory immediately after collection. The lab staff will notify the pathologist on call if the test is needed Stat.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Cellular material

Container: Slides

Collection: Puncture vesicle (new, rather than old lesions are preferable) with sterile needle and firmly scrape base of lesion with a buccal smear spatula. Spread cellular material evenly on labeled, frosted glass slides.

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Tzanck Smear Kits can be found in the Histology supply cabinet and should be forwarded to the requesting department for specimen collection. The slides should be fixed at the collection point with the fixative contained in the kit. Completed specimen collections will be forwarded to the laboratory. The lab staff will notify the pathologist on call if the test is needed Stat.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Mislabeled or unlabeled specimen. Specimen contaminated with air drying artifact.

Interpretive

Reference Range: Interpretive report

Methodology: Tzanck smear with special stain, microscopic evaluation

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

Updates: 9/21/2005: Change in specimen collection. See special instructions and special processing.