

Section: Division of Nursing

* PROCEDURE *

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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MINOR PROCEDURES

(Scope)

TITLE: CYTOLOGY BRUSHING/WASHING

PURPOSE: To outline the steps for performing Cytology brushing/washing

SUPPORTIVE DATE:

Cytology brushing or washing is used for collection of cells for microscopic examination by brushing or washing a particular site when there is suspicion of cancer or infection. Cytology brushing or washing is done in conjunction with endoscopic procedures.

EQUIPMENT LIST:

1. Refer to specific endoscopic procedure
2. Disposable sheathed cytology brush
3. Slides, slide covers and fixative
4. Specimen traps if requested with saline
5. Appropriate lab slips and labels
6. Sterile Wire Cutter

CONTENT:

PROCEDURE STEPS:

KEY POINTS:

A. Brushing Technique

Enter all specimens into Affinity

1. Reassure patient that cytology procedure is painless.
2. Pass appropriate brush to physician, who in turn passes brush into endoscope and brush suspicious area several times to obtain adequate cellular material.
3. Pull brush back into sheath and withdraw from endoscope.
4. Push brush out of sheath, cut tips with sterile wire cutter and put into specimen container for cytology.
5. Label the jar, transport to the laboratory with lab slip.

Potential complications:

Mucosal bleeding following brushings

Contraindicated in active bleeding.

Enter Order Program on Affinity

6. Brush cells onto slide if ordered by physician
7. Spray slide with fixative, label and transport specimen to lab.

B. Washing Technique

1. Attach specimen trap to endoscope suction trap.
2. Inject 20-30 cc sterile saline through the biopsy channel onto the lesion.
3. Collect the specimen by aspirating the fluid through the endoscope into a specimen trap.
4. Send the specimen immediately for processing to prevent lysis of the cells, or add an equal amount of fixative to the specimen as ordered by physician.
5. Document that washing sample was obtained.
6. Label the jar, transport to the laboratory with lab slip.