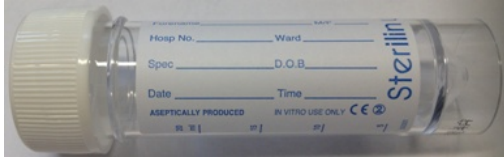


Serous Fluid

Synonyms	Ascitic fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid, Peritoneal fluids/washings
Clinical Indication	At clinician's discretion.
Part of Profile / See Also	N/A
Request Form	Manual request form or ICE request
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	On request.
Turnaround Time	Reports are normally available 10 calendar days after the date of the procedure. Samples requiring extra work may take longer, please contact the reporting Hospitals Cellular Pathology Department for further information on delayed reports or for clinical advice (01268 524900 Ext:3033).
Patient Preparation	As per clinical requirements.
Sample Requirements	There must be at least 3 matching patient identifiers on both sample pot and request form. Patient Identifiers must include any 3 of the following: Patient's full name, Patient Date of Birth (D.O.B) and NHS Number or Hospital Number.
Specimen Type	Serous Fluid. Specimen should be fresh and unfixed or in a CytoLyt container.
Volume	A full sterile universal container or CytoLyt pot is sufficient for most cytological assessments. It is unnecessary to send large volumes of fluid to the laboratory. Any sample larger than 50ml may be returned to the sender to be decanted into an appropriate container, as the laboratory cannot handle large volumes of fluid. This will lead to delays in reporting.
Container	 <p>Sterile universal container.</p> <p>Samples in plain universal containers should be sent to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection. If there is a delay between collection and transport, the sample should be refrigerated.</p>

Acceptance/Rejection criteria



Hazard-labelled 50ml universal container

Samples sent in CytoLyt may be kept at room temperature 15-30°C.

Samples must be accompanied with a corresponding fully completed request form. Both the sample and request form must be legibly labelled with a minimum of three patient identifiers (patient's full name, DOB and NHS number or Hospital number).

There should be no discrepancies between the sample pot and the request form.

Please note that samples failing to meet these criteria will be given attempt to contact requester for the correction of error and sign disclaimer but failing to this may result in rejection of sample.

Reference Range & Units

N/A

Interferences

Sometimes cellular yield may be low resulting in a scanty preparation.

If a specimen is heavily bloodstained the cells may be obscured or may degenerate quickly.

Old or unfixed, un-refrigerated specimens may show poor preservation.

Inexperienced clinical personnel may occasionally take specimens inaccurately i.e. not from cavities.

If a specimen is also required by another department, such a Microbiology, this can result in a delay in processing and therefore a sub-optimal sample. Please send separate samples, with the appropriate request forms to the different departments, if required.

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

N/A

References

N/A

Test code

ASCFL (code for Ascitic fluid and Peritoneal fluid); PERICF (Pericardial fluid); PLEFL (Pleural fluid); PERWA (Peritoneal Washing)

Lab Handling

Unfixed fluid samples - Store at 2-8°C.

Samples in CytoLyt – Store at 15-30 °C.



Accredited to
ISO 15189:2022

Specimen Transport

From Basildon Hospital: Ward and clinic samples should be taken to the Pathology Specimen Reception hatch on Level C.

From Southend Hospital: Southend Hospital: Ward and clinic samples to Pathology Reception in the Essential Services Lab on the 2nd Floor in the Pink Zone.

GP/Community Samples: All GP work is collected by the Courier Service and brought to the address below.

Location of Laboratory

The Diagnostic (Non Gynae) Cytology Laboratory is located at:
Cellular Pathology Department
Basildon University Hospital
Nethermayne
Basildon
SS16 5NL

Contact numbers

Cellular Pathology Tel: 01268 524 900 Ext: 8888/ 3033
Open 8.30am-5.00pm; Monday – Friday excluding Bank Holidays.