

Specimen Information and Requirements for Flow Cytometry Testing

1. Peripheral Blood Analysis

Specimen Type:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) EDTA tube (Lavender Top)- Preferred • Sodium Heparin tube (Green Top) will also be accepted
Specimen Storage:	Room Temperature.
Specimen Stability:	48 hours at Room Temperature
Unacceptable Specimen Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than of 500µl volume. • More than 48 hours old. • Haemolysed. • Clotted. • Frozen. • Container broken during transit.

2. Bone Marrow Analysis

Specimen Type:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) EDTA tube (Lavender Top)- Preferred • Sodium Heparin tube (Green Top) will also be accepted
Specimen Storage:	Room Temperature.
Specimen Stability:	48 hours at Room Temperature without preservative.
Unacceptable Specimen Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than of 500µl volume. • More than 48 hours old. • Haemolysed. • Clotted. • Frozen. • Container broken during transit.

3. Body Fluid Analysis

Specimen Type:	e.g. CSF, BAL's, Pleural Effusions, Ascites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send in sterile screw cap container.
Specimen Storage:	Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Specimen Stability:	24 hours without preservative.
Unacceptable Specimen Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 24 hours old. • Haemolysed • Clotted • Frozen • Container broken during transit.

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4. Lymph Node/ Other Tissue

Specimen Type:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ~5mm³ tissue in RPMI or normal sterile saline, enough to cover tissue.
Specimen Storage:	Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Specimen Stability:	24 hours without preservative.
Unacceptable Specimen Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 24 hours old. • Haemolysed • Clotted • Frozen • Container broken during transit.

Use of TransFix Preservative

When there is a delay in the shipping of body fluids and lymph node cell suspensions to LifeLabs, it is permissible to use the TransFix Preservative to extend the stability of the sample from 24 hours to 10 days. TransFix preserves the white blood cells in fluid and lymph node cell suspensions without reducing activity of antigenic sites.

Preparation	Check for cloudiness or precipitate in the preservative vial before use. Do not use if signs of deterioration are present. No other preparation is necessary before use.
Storage and Stability	Store the preservative at 18-25°C although it is advisable to store it at 2-8°C to reduce evaporation. After opening, a vial is stable for 2 years or until the expiration date on the label.

Step	Action
1.	Disaggregate excised lymph node or other tissue in saline. For body fluids samples (i.e. CSF and FNA), no other sample preparation is necessary.
2.	Add an appropriate volume of TransFix at the ratio of 0.2ml TransFix per 1ml of cells suspension.
3.	Replace the cap on the collection tube, ensuring that there is no leakage.
4.	Mix gently by inversion at least 10 times and store at 2-25°C for up to 10 days. Do not vortex.

Flow Cytometry testing can be requested on the Physician Phlebotomy Order Form or the Flow Cytometry Requisition is available on-line in the Test Information Directory.

<http://www.lifelabs.com/healthcare-providers/Pages/Requistions-and-Forms.aspx?Province=ON>