

FLUID – CSF

(Cerebrospinal Fluid)



REQUIRES SPECIAL HANDLING

CSFs Will Not Be Accepted Without The Following

- Cytocentrifuge/Cytospin preparation
- Hemacytometer cell count (performed manually by trained individual)

Please send CSF samples to a reference laboratory if hemacytometer cell count and cytocentrifuge preparations are not available.

Fluid Sample Collection

The CSF sample should be promptly aliquoted into an EDTA tube and into a red top tube if enough fluid is available.

Cytocentrifuge Preparations

A cytocentrifuge (or 'cytospin') is a specialized centrifuge that is used in the reference lab setting to concentrate very low cellularity fluids, such as washes, onto a small circular area of the slide. This preparation technique helps to **preserve cell integrity** and **ensure there are cells available for evaluation** by the pathologist.

Cytocentrifuge preparation

1. Label the slide CSF with a pencil.
2. Prepare the funnel, slide, and clip apparatus according to the cytocentrifuge manufacturer's instructions.
3. Carefully pipette 200 uL of CSF into the funnel (minimum 100 uL).
4. Centrifuge the sample according to manufacturer's instructions. Remove the slide from the centrifuge and unclip from the funnel apparatus.
5. Using a slide marking pen, **draw a circle on the underside of the slide surrounding the sample area. Do NOT draw on the sample side of the slide.** Even concentrated CSF samples can be of very low cellularity and difficult to visualize on the slide once stained. This step will ensure the area of interest can be easily visualized and included in the scanned field.
6. Stain and coverslip slide.

Submission

Please Include

- Relevant history
- Description of fluid
- Hemacytometer manual cell counts (RBC and WBC)
- Cytocentrifuge slide

When Scanning, Make Sure That

- Slide is sample side up, pointing toward scanner lens
- Slide lock is engaged
- There are no objects preventing movement of scanner (including no operating centrifuges)