# FLUID – WASHES

## (TTW, BAL, Nasal Flush, Urinary Tract Wash, Etc.)

### Key Components for Submission

- Stained direct (unconcentrated) preparation
- Stained sediment (concentrated) preparation

### Highly Recommended If Available

- Cytocentrifuge/Cytospin preparation

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### Fluid sample collection

The fluid sample should be promptly placed into an EDTA tube. If enough fluid remains, place a portion into a sterile tube without additive.

Fluid in the EDTA tube should be used for slide preparation. Fluid in the sterile tube may be needed for additional testing, such as culture.

### 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. *Scan time is also significantly reduced.*

Small versions of cytocentrifuges are available for in-clinic use.

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### Direct (Unconcentrated) Preparation

1. Label the slide direct with a pencil.
2. Gently invert the tube of EDTA fluid several times to ensure it is well mixed.
3. Place a drop of fluid near the label end of the slide and use the blood smear technique to spread the fluid, making sure to leave a feathered edge.
4. Rapidly dry the slide (a hair dryer on cool setting can be used). Do not heat fix.
5. Stain the slide and allow to dry.
6. Place immersion oil and coverslip prior to submission.

### Sediment (Concentrated) Preparation

1. Label the slide sediment with a pencil.
2. Aliquot a portion of well-mixed fluid into a separate tube for centrifugation.
3. Spin down the fluid, decant the supernatant, and gently resuspend the pellet in the small amount of remaining fluid (similar to preparation of urine sediment).
4. Place a drop of the sediment near the label end of the slide and use the blood smear technique to spread the fluid, making sure to leave a feathered edge.

*Continue with Steps 4-6 under Direct Prepartion*

### Submission

Make sure it is clear which slide is the direct preparation and which slide is the sediment preparation.

### 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)