

FLUID – BODY CAVITY

(Pericardial)



Key Components for Submission

- Stained direct (unconcentrated) preparation, similar to a blood smear

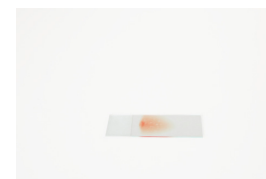
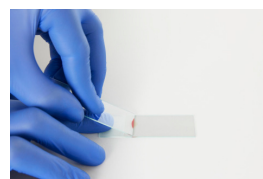
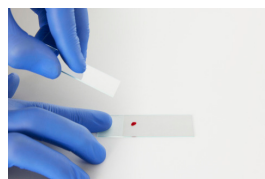
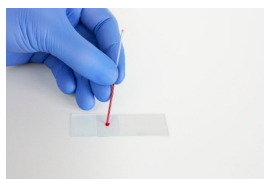
Fluid Sample Collection

The fluid sample should be promptly placed into an EDTA tube.

A Note on Pericardial Fluid

Pericardial fluid often has an appearance similar to peripheral blood. If the pericardial fluid sample obtained **does not** appear to be blood, please refer to Body Cavity Fluids (peritoneal, pleural) for sample preparation recommendations.

Direct (Unconcentrated) Preparation:



Prepare The Slide

- Mix the EDTA anticoagulated blood
- Use a microhematocrit capillary tube or precision pipette to draw blood from the tube that has just been mixed, and gently place a drop onto the labeled slide
- Care should be taken not to tap the tube against the slide
- A wooden stick should not be used for this blood transfer - platelets and white blood cells tend to adhere to the stick

Place Spreader Slide

- Place the spreader slide on top of the labeled slide in front of the blood droplet and hold at a 30° to 45° angle

Spread The Blood

- Draw the spreader slide back until it makes contact with the blood droplet
- Capillary action will draw the sample toward the edges of the slide
- Do not allow the blood to reach the edges of the slide

Complete The Spread

- Before the blood reaches the edges of the slide, with a smooth, stable and fluid motion, push the spreader slide away from the sample blood drop across the bottom slide. Maintain the same angle throughout the motion, and do not apply downward pressure. This should produce a uniform blood film covering approximately 1/2 to 2/3 of the slide
- Let the slide air-dry to avoid air-drying artifacts (DO NOT HEAT FIX THE SLIDE)

Inspect Slide

- After the blood smear is made, visually inspect the slide to ensure that 1/2 to 2/3 of the slide is covered
- The smear should look like a thumbprint and exhibit a visible feathered edge at its end