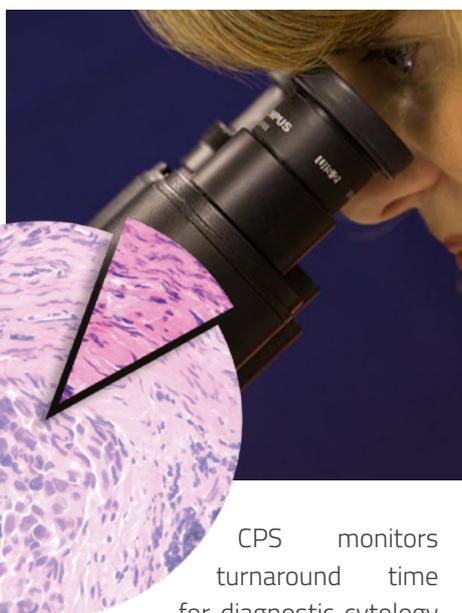


## Diagnostic Cytology

Cytopathology is the discipline that involves the microscopic examination of cells exfoliated into body fluids such as urine or obtained from body cavities in the chest, abdomen or from cysts.

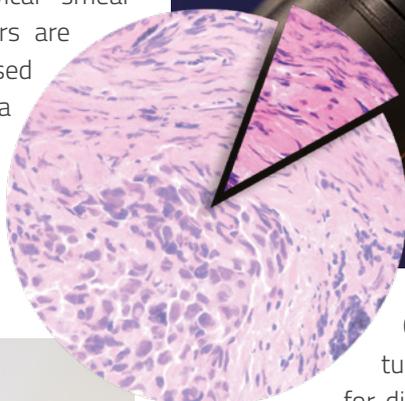
Cytology samples can also be obtained by aspiration of cells from solid lumps using a fine needle.

Gynaecological cytology refers to the examination of cervical smear specimens. Cervical smears are examined by a liquid-based cytology technique using a Thin-Prep vial. This is detailed in the separate e-Leaflet – Gynaecological Cytology.



the use of imaging. This involves the use of a needle to extract cells and spreading them onto microscope slides.

The slides are submitted to the laboratory for handling and staining so that the Consultant Pathologist can examine the slides and issue a report. Often the pathologists will discuss the findings with your surgeon or physician so as to extract the maximum amount of information from your FNA sample.



CPS monitors turnaround time for diagnostic cytology specimens as one of its KPI. Urgent processing of samples is possible, please consult with your doctor.

### Fine Needle Aspirations

Fine needle aspiration (FNA) is frequently used in cytology to provide a rapid diagnostic procedure performed in an outpatient setting with or without



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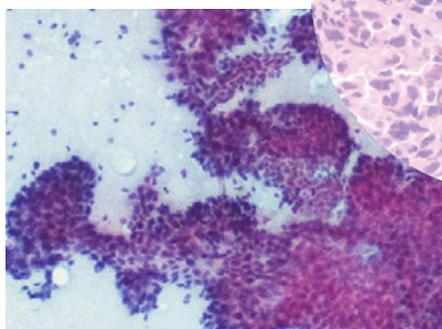
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## Diagnostic Cytology

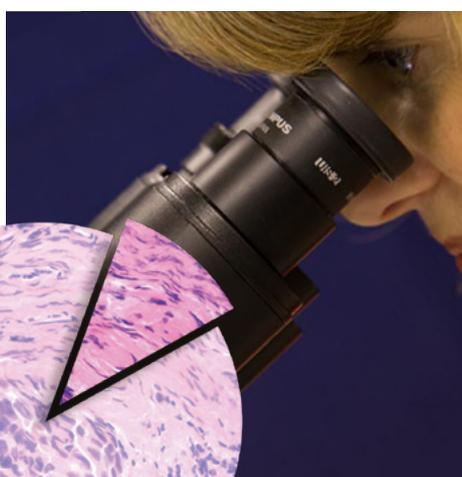
### Urine Cytology

The epithelial cells lining the urinary tract are naturally shed into the urine. Cytological assessment of these cells can be useful in the screening, diagnosis and follow-up of urological malignancy, in particular, transitional cell carcinoma. Samples may be obtained by direct collection of



urine, from bladder washouts or from cystoscopy, catheterisation or ureteric brushes.

When patients are asked to submit a urine sample for cytological examination, it is important to collect the 2nd voided urine of the day (an early morning urine will have stagnated overnight in the bladder resulting in degeneration of the cells and render them unassessable).



If you are asked to submit three separate samples, these need to be collected on 3 different days, numbered consecutively starting with 1 and dated, so your Doctor can rely on the result. Submitting 3 different sample pots from the same urine sample or taken on the same day of each other is not recommended.

Minimum acceptable volume useful for cytological assessment is 25mls. If it is not possible to send the sample to the laboratory straight away, you should refrigerate the specimen at 4° celsius.

### Sputum Cytology

Examination of sputum samples can be a useful tool in the detection of lung and bronchial cancer. The epithelial cells lining the bronchi are naturally shed into sputum during coughing.

A good deep cough early morning sputum sample, before eating or brushing your teeth, produces the best sample. You may be asked to submit three separate occasions (different days) to increase the yield if a lung carcinoma is suspected; these samples should be labelled consecutively 1, 2 and 3 and dated.

Each specimen should be sent promptly to the laboratory without waiting for the next specimen to be obtained. If it is not possible to send the sample to the laboratory straight away, you should refrigerate the specimen at 4° celsius.



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