

Specimen Collection Reference Guide

Specimen Type	Collection Medium	Testing Options	Notes
Skin/Soft Tissue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable skin (punches and shaves) • Soft tissue (subcutaneous masses) • Viable nail unit (punches, excisions) 	Formalin Fixative (Except punch biopsies obtained for the purpose of EPIDERMAL NERVE FIBER DENSITY testing, ENFD specimens MUST be placed in Zamboni's fixative; See ENFD Fixation Guide for overnight shipping instructions.)	Routine Histopathology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM) • Immunohistochemical Stains (S100, Melan-A, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin neoplasms (pigmented and verrucous lesions, masses, ulcerations) • Dermatitis (tinea, eczema) • Subcutaneous masses (lipoma, ganglia) • Nail unit neoplasms (melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, etc)
Dry Keratin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nail • Skin scrapings • Hair 	Dry Keratin Bag (no medium) Contact your local account representative, or Cutis Diagnostics directly, to obtain supplies.	Routine Histopathology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM) False-Negative rates for fungal identification may be increased with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceedingly small samples • Nail samples consisting of only distal plate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial infections (such as tinea, candida, pitted keratolysis) • Non-infectious nail dystrophy (psoriasis, onycholysis, microtrauma) • General impression (neoplastic and inflammatory diseases may be suggested by superficial samples; however, definitive diagnosis are uncommon) • Fungal culture final reports cannot be issued for a minimum of four weeks. Earlier growth may be reported in a preliminary report.
		PCR Assay (Nail Only) Identifies genus and species with higher sensitivity than culture. Not available for formalin-fixed tissue.	
		Fungal Culture Identifies the genus and species of fungal elements; however, is plagued by a very high rate of false-negative tests. For this reason, cultures are performed in tandem with histochemical studies. Not available for formalin-fixed tissue.	
Bone	Formalin	Routine Histopathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osteomyelitis, neoplasms, exostoses
	Fresh (sterile cup) Aerobic and/or anaerobic swab E-swab (aerobic and/or anaerobic cultures)	Bacteriology (aerobic culture, anaerobic cultures, sensitivities; all may be performed with a single e-swab)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify organisms causing osteomyelitis • Specimens may be, if large, wrapped with gauze moisturized with saline or, if small, embedded within media within swab. • Anaerobic specimens should not be exposed to oxygen for more than 30 minutes (place in e-swab or anaerobic swab)
Aspiration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint fluids 	Fresh (sterile cup) or in dehydrated alcohol	GOUT study (crystal analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test for monosodium urate crystals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masses, cysts 	Fresh (sterile cup) or in Formalin	CYTOLOGY (study of cells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganglion cyst, benign and malignant neoplasms
Bacteriology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wounds • Aspirations 	Fresh (sterile cup)	Aerobic culture and sensitivity	Superficial tissues
	E-swab or Swab with GEL	Aerobic and anaerobic culture and sensitivity	Deep tissue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimen should NOT be exposed to oxygen more than 30 minutes
	Aerobic Swab (without GEL)	Aerobic culture and sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ship to BAKO via Overnight Service



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or Cutis Diagnostics directly,
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