



ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

Referred Tests

Asante Laboratory Services have chosen Vista Pathology as our anatomic pathology reference lab. We will process specimens submitted to us and refer them to Vista Pathology for professional, interpretive services.

Pathology Billing

Outpatients will usually receive a single bill from Vista Pathology which includes the charges for processing and interpretation of specimens. Patients should be aware that occasionally, they may receive two bills for anatomic pathology testing. One bill will be from Asante Laboratory Services for specimen processing and one will be from Vista Pathology for interpretation. Charges for specimens can vary depending on the number of submitted specimens and the complexity of interpretation.

Supplies

Supplies for pathology specimens are available through our courier services department for free. Please contact us with your supply needs.

Specimen Submission

All specimens submitted to us must be labeled with the following:

- Patient's name
- Date of Birth
- Specimen source
- Ordering Physician's name

Please include a pre and post operative diagnosis as well as brief clinical history with the specimen.

Specimens must include duplicate billing requisition forms.

For outpatient specimens, please include the following billing information:

- Patient's name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Date of Birth
- Insurance Company

- Insurance Address
- Responsible Party
- Include a copy of the front and back of insurance card

Providing this information will prevent delays in testing.

Autopsies

Consult a pathologist with any autopsy questions by calling (541) 789-4191 during normal business hours.

Outside of normal business hours, the on-call pathologist can be reached by contacting the laboratory.

Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center Laboratory: (541) 789-4164

Asante Three Rivers Medical Center Laboratory: (541) 472-7170

Asante Ashland Community Hospital Laboratory: (541) 789-4164

HISTOLOGY

Routine Surgical Specimens

Routine surgical specimens must be submitted, fully submerged, in 10% neutral buffered formalin and sent with a properly filled out requisition form. The formalin to specimen ration should be 10:1. If not feasible due to sample size, the minimum ratio is 4:1.

The time between removal of the specimen from the patient and immersion in formalin (cold ischemia time) must be identified and available to the laboratory in the order or requisition.

Note: Fixation of tissue in formalin or other preservatives will prevent the laboratory from performing certain tests, such as frozen sections or cultures. Please contact the laboratory if you have any questions when submitting a specimen for multiple tests.

Rush Specimens

We will prioritize specimens which are identified as rush. Write “**RUSH**” in **RED** on the tear-off portion of the form. Please note the reason for the rush status on the form.

Specimens Requiring Special Handling

- Frozen Sections
- Bone Marrows
- Biopsy Cultures
- Muscle Biopsies
- Immunofluorescence
- Renal Biopsies

- Nerve Biopsies

CYTOLOGY

The Cytology Department at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center processes and evaluates gynecologic and non-gynecologic specimens.

Technical services are offered through Asante Laboratory Services and we contract with Vista Pathology for professional, interpretive services.

To learn more, please contact us at (541) 789-4195.

Specimen Labeling

All sample containers must be labeled with the patient's name and date of birth. Microslides made from the patient must be labeled with patient's name and source. The specimen must be accompanied by a matching requisition.

Gynecologic (PAP) Testing

We process and evaluate liquid based (SurePath) PAP specimens. Human papillomavirus, *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoea* testing can be performed on the PAP specimens when requested.

Non-Gynecologic Testing

Because cells disintegrate from enzymatic activity, cytology specimens should be sent to us immediately after collection. If that is not possible, then the specimen should be refrigerated until it can be sent.

Sacomanno fixative is available from our courier service if a specimen cannot be refrigerated or immediately sent to us. Caution must be taken when using fixative to not dilute the cytology specimen. The proper procedure is to add fixative until 25% of the specimen is fixative. If the original container is too small to add the proper amount of fixative, then the original specimen should be split into an additional container. Fixative can then be added to both containers until 25% of each specimen is fixative. Both containers should be sent to us. Be sure to label both containers correctly.

DO NOT add formalin to cytology specimens.

DO NOT add any fixatives if microbiology testing is requested along with the cytology test. Fixatives will kill any microorganisms present.

Turnaround Times

The usual turnaround time for non-gynecologic specimens is 24 hours after receipt, Monday through Friday.

Specimens Requiring Special Handling

- **Breast Aspirates**

Prepare 2 to 4 smears like blood film smears and **FIX IMMEDIATELY** with either 95% reagent alcohol or hairspray. Alternatively, place the entire specimen into a sterile container and make sure it is completely covered with fluid. If not, add Saccomanno fixative or saline to prevent the cells from drying out.

If a small volume of specimen is obtained, aspirate a few milliliters of saline into the syringe. Remove the needle and cap the syringe. Properly label the syringe and deliver to the lab as soon as possible.

- **Breast Discharge**

Express fluid from the breast, wipe surface of the nipple with gauze and express fluid again. Exfoliated cells are usually not obtained in the first expressed fluid. Prepare 4 to 6 smears by placing a glass slide against the surface of the nipple and drawing across the nipple to form a smear. **FIX IMMEDIATELY** with either 95% reagent alcohol or hairspray.

- **Bronchial Washings**

Clip the end of the brush off into a properly labeled sterile container with Saccamanno fixative or saline.

- **Cerebrospinal Fluid**

Cells tend to disintegrate quickly in CSF, so it very important to keep these specimens refrigerated until they can be delivered to us.

- **Fine Needle Aspirations of Palpable Lesions**

To arrange for a pathologist to perform a fine needle aspiration of a palpable lesion call the Pathology Department at (541) 789-4191.

- **Fine Needle Aspirations of Superficial Lesions performed in the Office**

Prepare up to 10 smears. Air dry approximately one-third of the slides. **IMMEDIATELY FIX** the others by placing the smears in a sterile screw cap container containing 95% reagent grade alcohol. Please label the air-dried smears with "A/D" along with the patient's name and source.

Any specimen remaining in the needle and syringe should be rinsed in saline or Saccomanno fixative and submitted to the lab in a sterile container with the patient's smears.

- **Urine**

Due to the disintegration of cells in the bladder overnight, do not use the first early morning specimen. Hydrate your patient with one glass of water every 15 minutes for one hour. Following hydration, collect and send the entire first post hydration specimen to us as soon as possible. Keep the specimen refrigerated until it can be delivered to us. Please specify on the requisition how the specimen was collected (voided, clean catch midstream, ileal loop or catheterization). Please include relevant patient history on the requisition.

- **Sputum**

The best method of sputum collection is by induction. Arrangements for this type of collection may be made with our Respiratory Department. If induction is not feasible, an early morning sputum is the next choice. We request three early morning specimens be collected on three different days. The specimens should be collected within one hour of waking up.

Please instruct your patient on the three-breath technique and have pre-labeled collection containers available for when they wake up.

The three-breath technique consists of three very deep breaths from the diaphragm which are held for five seconds each. The first two times, the breath is exhaled with considerable pressure into a tissue or handkerchief held against the mouth. The third breath should produce an explosive cough. The material produced from this cough should be placed into a pre-labeled collection container. **DO NOT** place any tissue or fibrous material in with the specimen.

If the specimen cannot be delivered to us within one hour of collection, then the specimen should be refrigerated. Alternatively, 10 to 20 milliliters of Saccomanno Fixative may be used to preserve the specimen. A specimen that has been unpreserved for more than one hour may be unsatisfactory due to cellular disintegration.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center

Laboratory: (541) 789-4164

Pathology: (541) 789-4191

Cytology: (541) 789-4195

Asante Three Rivers Medical Center

Laboratory: (541) 472-7170

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Asante Ashland Community Hospital

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