

Accurate and timely cytology results start with good quality slides

5 steps to optimal slide submission

Step 1: Provide clinical history.

Information should include the following:

- + Patient signalment (including breed)
- + Clinical signs
- + The anatomic site sampled
- + Relevant history
- + Physical exam findings
- + Working clinical diagnosis or specific questions you would like to get answered



Step 2: Label the slides.

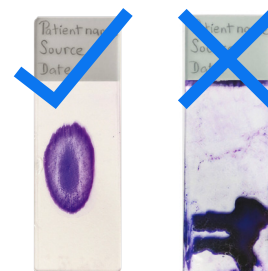
- + Clearly label slides on the frosted end.
- + Label each with the patient name, date, source, and slide preparation type.

Step 3: Assess overall slide quality while patient is still in the clinic.

Visually inspect unstained slides in good light or under a microscope

What to look for:

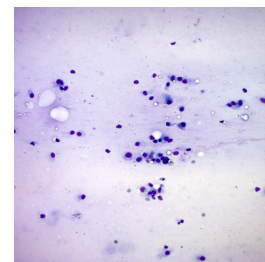
- + Slide has visible material on it, specifically well preserved, even monolayer of cell distribution.
- + Material is evenly spread across the slide.



Step 4: Prepare 1 stained slide and evaluate specimen quality under the microscope.

What to look for:

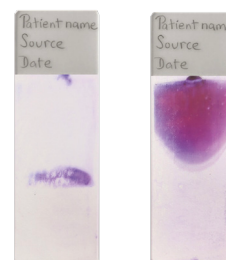
- + Slide contains visible cellular material on low power (4x and 10x) and a majority of intact cells when observed at higher magnification (10x-20x)
- + Slide has good color contrast.



Step 5: Choose the best 1-3 slides for submission.

IMPORTANT :

Look for well preserved, even monolayer cell slides. This is sufficient per body site. (For bone marrow and lymph node samples you can submit more).



For more resources and education on pathology testing and slide submission, visit [idexx.com/pathology](https://www.idexx.com/pathology) or the IDEXX Learning Center