BMC

Specimen Type

Body Fluid

Specimen Required

Lavender top

Minimum Volume to Submit for Testing

1.0 mL Body fluid

Storage Requirements

Room Temperature up to 2 hours then refrigerate at 2-8°C up to 24 hours.

Transportation Needs

Deliver specimen to the laboratory within 1 hour of collection. If not possible see "Storage Requirements"

Causes for Rejection

Mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

>2 hours room temperature

> 24 hours refrigerated

Clotted samples – Cytospin differential only will be performed

Insufficient sample for analysis

Sample received in any anticoagulant other than K2EDTA

Sample received in a 6.0 mL pink vacutainer

Reference Values

Serous Fluids (pleural, peritoneal, ascites, pericardial, peritoneal lavage, and dialysate)						
Source	Erythrocyte Count (cells/μL)	Leukocyte Count	Neutrophils	Appearance		
		(cells/μL)				
Pleural	< 10,000	< 1,000-implies a		Clear, colorless to pale		
	>100,000 (suggests a neoplasm, trauma,	transudate		yellow; does not clot		
	or pulmonary infarction)	>1,000-implies an				
		exudates				
Pericardial	< 10,000	< 1,000-implies a		Clear, colorless to pale		
	>100,000-suggests a neoplasm, trauma,	transudate		yellow; does not clot		
	or pulmonary infarction	>1,000-implies an				
		exudates				
Peritoneal	< 10,000	< 500	<25%	Clear, colorless to pale		
				yellow; does not clot		
Peritoneal	< 100,000	< 200		Clear, colorless to pale		
Lavage				yellow; does not clot		

Peritoneal	N/A	< 50	Clear, colorless to pale
Dialysate			yellow; does not clot

SYNOVIAL FLUIDS:				
Parameter	Normal			
Total Volume	< 4.0 mL			
Appearance	Clear, colorless to pale yellow			
Viscosity	High; does not clot			
Erythrocyte Count	0			
Leukocyte Count	0-150 cells/μL			
Neutrophils	Approx. 10%			
Lymphocytes	Approx. 30%			
Monocytes and macrophages	Approx. 60%			

Critical Values			
Dialysis Peritoneal Fluid: WBC > 100 cells/µL			

Includes

Automated or manual enumeration of WBC's and RBC's and differential cell count (percentages of each cell identified) from a cytocentrifuged and Wright-Giemsa stain when WBC \geq 6 cells/uL.

Available STAT

Yes

Methodology

Primary: Automated

Secondary: Manual cell count using hemocytometer

Slide prepared using cytocentrifugation and Wright-Giemsa stain

Microscopic examination of stained smear

CPT Code

89051