

# IDEXX Reference Laboratories

## North America Pathology Submission Guidelines



Test codes and fees are determined by the number and type of sites, lesions/masses, or tissue specimens submitted. Use the appropriate test code based on number of sites or tissue specimen type.

### Provide:

- + Signalment, breed, relevant history, clinical signs, physical examination findings, therapies instituted, and the anatomic site sampled
- + Gross lesion description: Size, shape, color, consistency, symmetry, location, and border definition (well-demarcated versus invasive)

- + Radiographic summary (images especially for bony lesions or oral masses)
- + Ultrasonographic summary (especially for specimens from internal organs)
- + Prior relevant laboratory results and/or trends including accession numbers (e.g., prior cytology/biopsy, recent CBC, chemistry panel, other)
- + Any specific questions you would like answered and/or clinical differential diagnoses

**IDEXX offers comprehensive training resources at [idexx.com/pathology](https://idexx.com/pathology) (for U.S. customers) or [idexx.ca/pathology](https://idexx.ca/pathology) (for Canadian customers) to support you in confidently preparing and selecting 1–2 quality cytology slides per site for clinical pathologist evaluation.**

### Cytology specimen types

Specimen type	Preparation	Submission information
Fine-needle aspirates (FNAs) (e.g., skin, organs, solid or fluid-filled masses)	1–2 slides per site	Label slides by site.
Lymph nodes	Up to 10 slides to ensure the most appropriate processing of your specimen and allow for the appropriate larger number of slides associated with these cases	Multiple nodes charged as one site.
Fluids (e.g., body cavities, joints, CSF)	Fluid in a lavender-top tube (LTT; EDTA), 1–2 slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charged per site</li><li>• Includes fluid analysis and pathologist evaluation</li></ul>
Bone marrow (BM) aspirate	4–6 slides, extra fluid in a lavender-top tube (LTT; EDTA)	A concurrent CBC submission or CBC results (within 48 hours of marrow collection) is required for complete interpretation and clinical commentary.
All cytology specimens	Slides should be air dried only. Avoid contact with oil. Store at room temperature, and keep specimens away from formalin fumes. Slides and tubes should be labeled with patient's first and last name, collection date, specimen ID, and submitting veterinarian's name.	Recommend prestaining a slide for quality screening prior to submission. Submit up to 2 slides per site unless otherwise indicated. Submission with more than 2 slides per site may result in additional charges and a longer turnaround time.

For information on IDEXX Digital Cytology, go to [idexx.com/digitalcyto](https://idexx.com/digitalcyto) (U.S.) or [idexx.ca/digitalcyto](https://idexx.ca/digitalcyto) (Canada).



## Biopsy specimen types

Specimen type	Submission information
Multiple needle/punch/endoscopic wedge, and incisional specimens from the same site	Charged per site including multifocal to diffuse non-single mass dermatologic conditions (1–5 punches for 1 site, 6–10 for 2 sites)
Individually labeled lymph nodes	Charged as separate sites and interpreted individually
Multiple lymph nodes submitted in the same biopsy jar	Charged as one site and interpreted as a whole
Multiple mass lesions	Charged as separate sites
Complex biopsy specimens: Spleen, liver/lung lobe; mammary chain/3 or more mammae or mass lesions; limb, partial limb, digit, jaw, tail, kidney, heart, brain, gastrointestinal tract resection and anastomosis specimen, eye, reproductive organ	The Complex Biopsy test code is required for qualifying complex specimen types.  <i>For more detailed Complex Biopsy submission information and requirements, visit <a href="https://idexx.com/7217">idexx.com/7217</a> (U.S.) or <a href="https://ca.idexx.com/complexbiopsy">ca.idexx.com/complexbiopsy</a> (Canada).</i>
Dermatopathology biopsy specimens: For skin lesions from chronic/recurring conditions that fail to respond to therapy; clinically unusual lesions; acute onset skin conditions that are progressing rapidly or clinically severe; conditions presenting with multifocal nodules	Assigned to the IDEXX Dermatopathology Team for case reading; test code 8934 (U.S.) or DERMBX (Canada)  <i>For more detailed submission information, visit <a href="https://idexx.com/dermbiopsy">idexx.com/dermbiopsy</a> (U.S./Canada).</i>
Multiple specimens obtained postmortem	Multiple tissues obtained postmortem may be ordered using the Necropsy, Multiple Tissue Specimens test code.  Note: IDEXX Reference Laboratories does not perform whole-body necropsies.
All biopsy specimens	Learn more about shipping and packaging requirements for biopsy specimens at <a href="https://go.idexx.com/submitbiopsy">go.idexx.com/submitbiopsy</a> (U.S. and Canada).  Quick tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use new jars, 1 jar per site, and label with the patient's first and last name, collection date, specimen ID, and veterinarian's name.</li> <li>• 10:1 formalin to tissue ratio. Completely cover the mass. Microcassettes are available for small specimens.</li> <li>• Ensure jars are labeled with "10% buffered formalin" or "saline" if using non-IDEXX issued jars.</li> <li>• Submit using standard shipping or courier service process.</li> </ul>
Multiple jars, same patient	Ensure specimens for the same patient are processed together by putting them in the same bag, use a larger resealable bag, or wrap multiple bags together with elastic bands.
Large tissues too big to fit in IDEXX-provided formalin jars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap in saline wetted gauze (not soaked; do not use paper towels), place in IDEXX-provided large biopsy sample submission kits.</li> <li>• Alternatively, triple bag the specimen in 1- to 5-gallon freezer bags or 10-gallon biohazard bags. Place adsorbents and ice packs inside the middle layer. Store in the refrigerator (not freezer) until pickup. Please anticipate a longer turnaround time for large specimens.</li> </ul>

**Notes:** Margins are evaluated and measured for all mass lesions, as applicable, free of charge.

**Supplies:** Microcassettes, large biopsy sample submission kits, and other supplies can be ordered free of charge through IDEXX Online Orders.

To learn more about IDEXX pathology, test codes, submission requirements, turnaround times, and fees, visit [vetconnectplus.com](https://vetconnectplus.com) (U.S.), [vetconnectplus.ca](https://vetconnectplus.ca) (Canada), [idexx.com/pathology](https://idexx.com/pathology) (U.S.), and [idexx.ca/pathology](https://idexx.ca/pathology) (Canada).