**Fine Needle Aspirations**

**Arrangements**
No special arrangements are necessary.

**Fixation**
This specimen requires a special fixative, Saccomanno fluid, or cytology fixative.

**Special instructions**

i. The following materials should be in the surgical suite prior to beginning this procedure.
   a) Small gauge needle.
      i) Retain the cap of the needle.
   b) Syringe.
   c) An empty sterile specimen container.
      i) Label the specimen container with the patient's name and date of birth, surgeon's name, type and location of the specimen (ie: cornea, left eye).
   d) 10 ml of Saccomanno fixative.
   e) Ocular Pathology Consultation Request form.

ii. The specimen should be removed from the patient and retained in the syringe.
   a) A notation should be made on the Ocular Pathology Consultation Request form as to the amount, color and consistency of the fluid removed from the patient (ie: 0.2 cc of red-tan colored viscous fluid was removed from the (right or left) eye).

iii. The physician should carefully place the needle into the Saccomanno fixative and draw up an equal amount of Saccomanno fixative into the syringe. The remaining Saccomanno fixative should be discarded.

iv. Next the physician should:
   a) Carefully squirt the specimen into the sterile container and immediately place the lid on the container.
   b) Once the entire contents of the syringe have been dispensed into the sterile container, dispose of the syringe needle intact into a bio-hazard sharps container.

v. Seal the lid of the container with parafilm or paraffin wax.

vi. Fill out the Ocular Pathology Consultation Request form completely.

vii. Send the specimen and Ocular Pathology Consultation Request form via overnight mail to the address mentioned under General Information on Collection and Handling of Specimens.