

## **PARAFFIN AND PLASTIC TECHNIQUES FOR PREPARATION OF BONE MARROW SPECIMENS**

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HANDLING OF BONE MARROWS

### **Aspirated Marrow Units**

1. On the floor, about 5ml of marrow aspirate is placed into a lavender top B-D vacutainer containing 0.07ml 15% EDTA and mix the contents quickly and thoroughly.
2. After arriving in the laboratory, the contents of the B-D tube are then filtered through either templefiber or Histowrap recovering only units.
3. The units are wrapped in the templefiber or Histowrap and placed in a bottle containing working B-5 fixative. The units are fixed for 1 hour.
4. The wrapped units are placed in a plastic processing cassette (do not use metal) and stored in 70% ethyl alcohol until processing.

### **Needle Biopsy of the Marrow**

1. On the floor, the biopsy material is placed in a bottle containing working B-5 fixative.
2. After arriving in the laboratory, the biopsy is fixed for a minimum of 30 minutes; 1 hour preferable.
3. After fixation, rinse the biopsy in tap water.
4. The specimen is placed in **RDO** decalcifying solution for 15-30 minutes.
5. When decalcification is complete, the specimen is wrapped in lens paper, placed in a plastic processing cassette (no metal) and washed in running tap water for 30 minutes.
6. Process as usual.