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Diagnostic Pathology of the Practitioner

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New Orleans, LA

Overview

- Contact the Reference Laboratory
- Patient and sample information
- Type of media or container for sample
- Timeliness of sample acquisition, preparation and submission
- Other variables
- Emphasis will be placed on diagnostic medicine as it relates to the clinical practitioner.

CALL THE LABORATORY!





Contact The Laboratory

- Ask the following questions:
  - What collection container is needed?
  - How much sample do I need to send?
  - What type of sample is needed (i.e. serum, whole blood, plasma, slides, frozen or fresh tissue, etc.)?
  - How to ship?
  - What type of results to expect?

Patient and Sample Information

- Complete Signalment
  - Name
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Species



- Sample Information
  - Is this the first sample submission?
  - Where is it from?
  - Are there multiple sites?
  - What tests do you need run?

Type of Media or Container for Sample

- Microbiology
- Parasitology
- Histopathology or Cytology
- Toxicology
- Clinical Biochemistry

Sample Acquisition



Sample Acquisition

- Cytology
- Tissue Biopsy
- Fluid Collection
- Non-biological samples
- Urinalysis
- Fecal samples



Sample Preparation

- Amount of sample
  - Blood collection



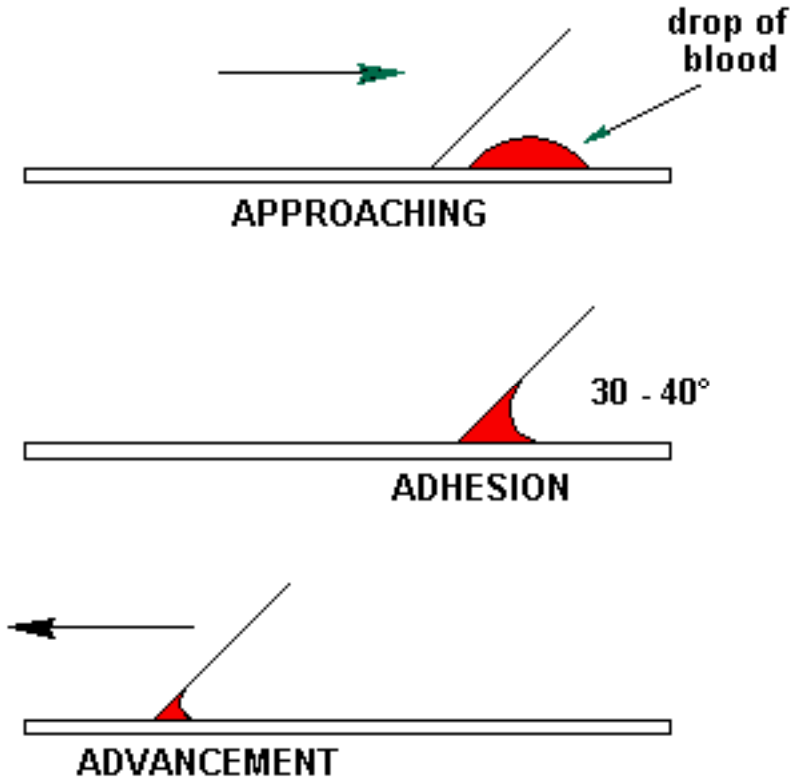


Fig. 7 - How to prepare a blood smear

Sample Submission

- Shipping to a reference laboratory:
  - Ice or no ice?
  - Same day or next day or regular mail?
  - Can samples be shipped together?

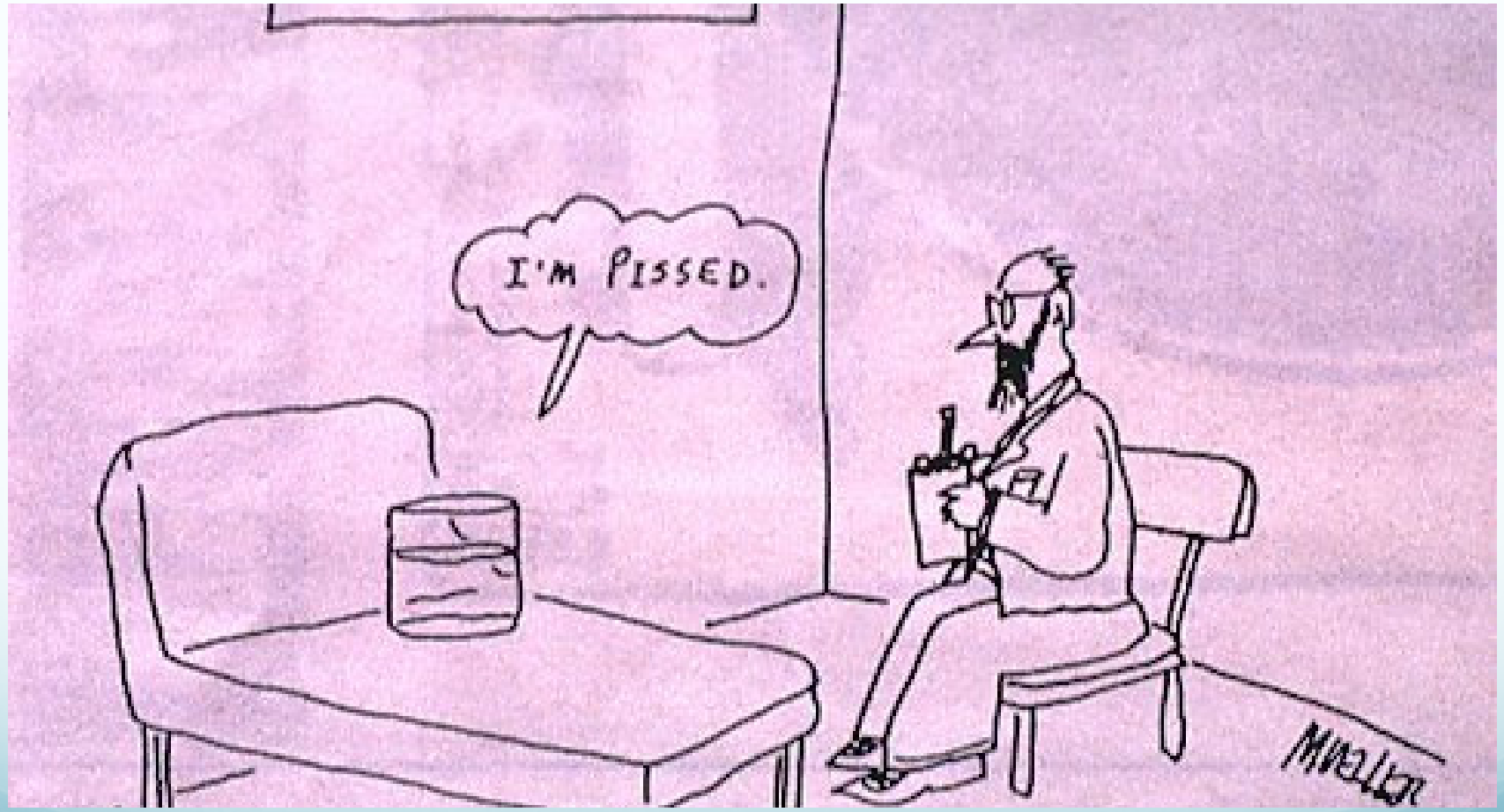


Other Variables

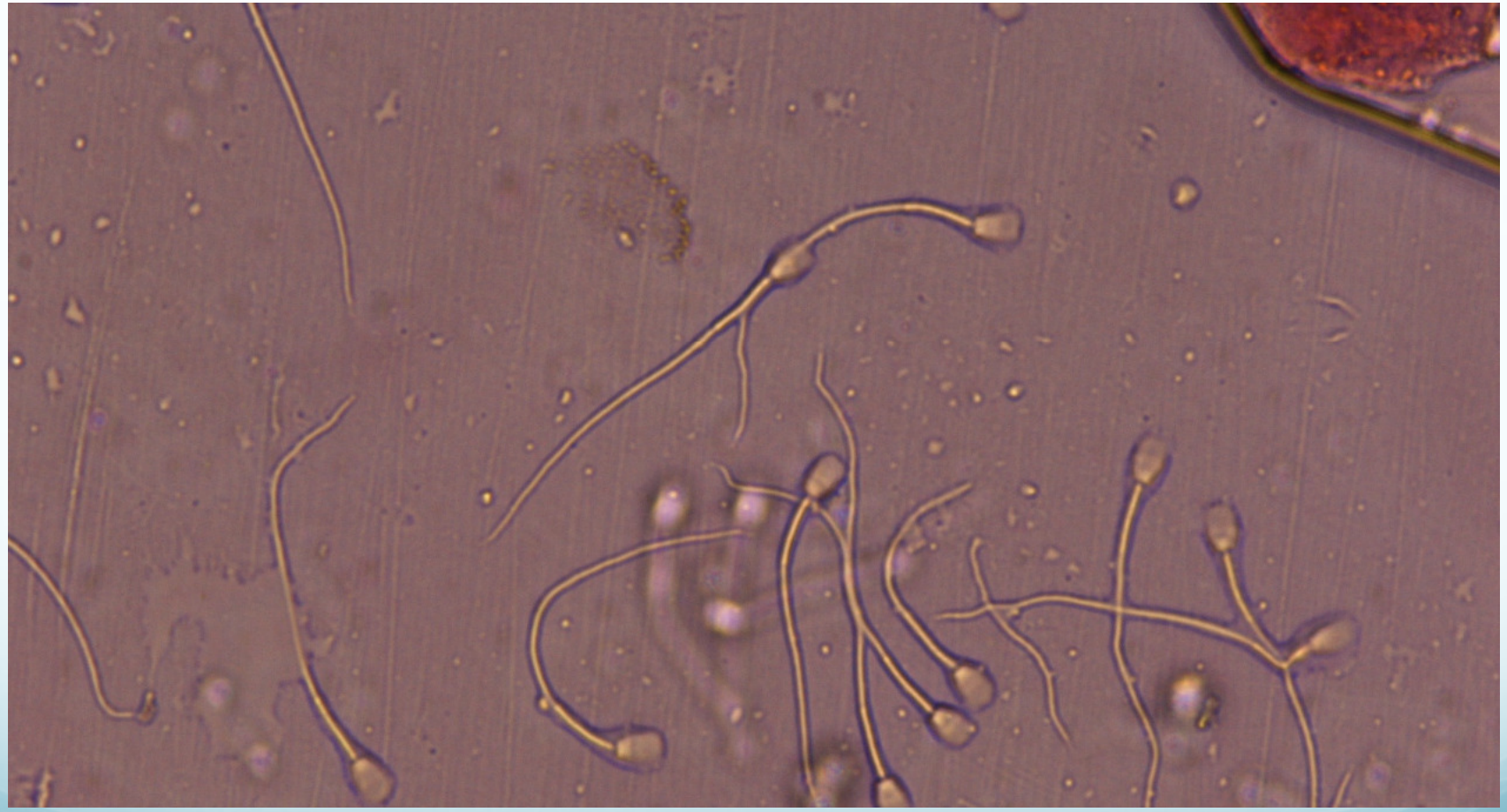
- Knowing your patient
- Fever
- Artifacts



Urinalysis



Who Is Your Patient?

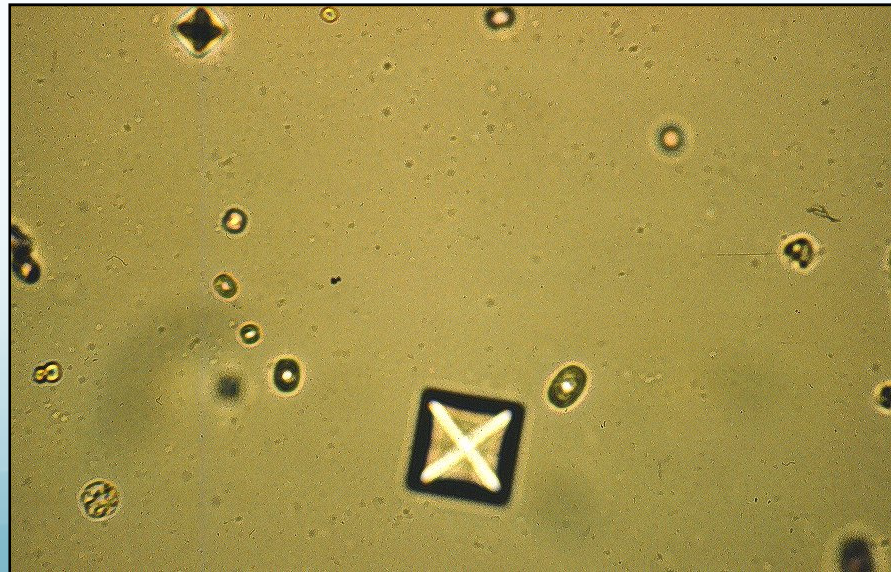


Do Not Reuse Glass Slides

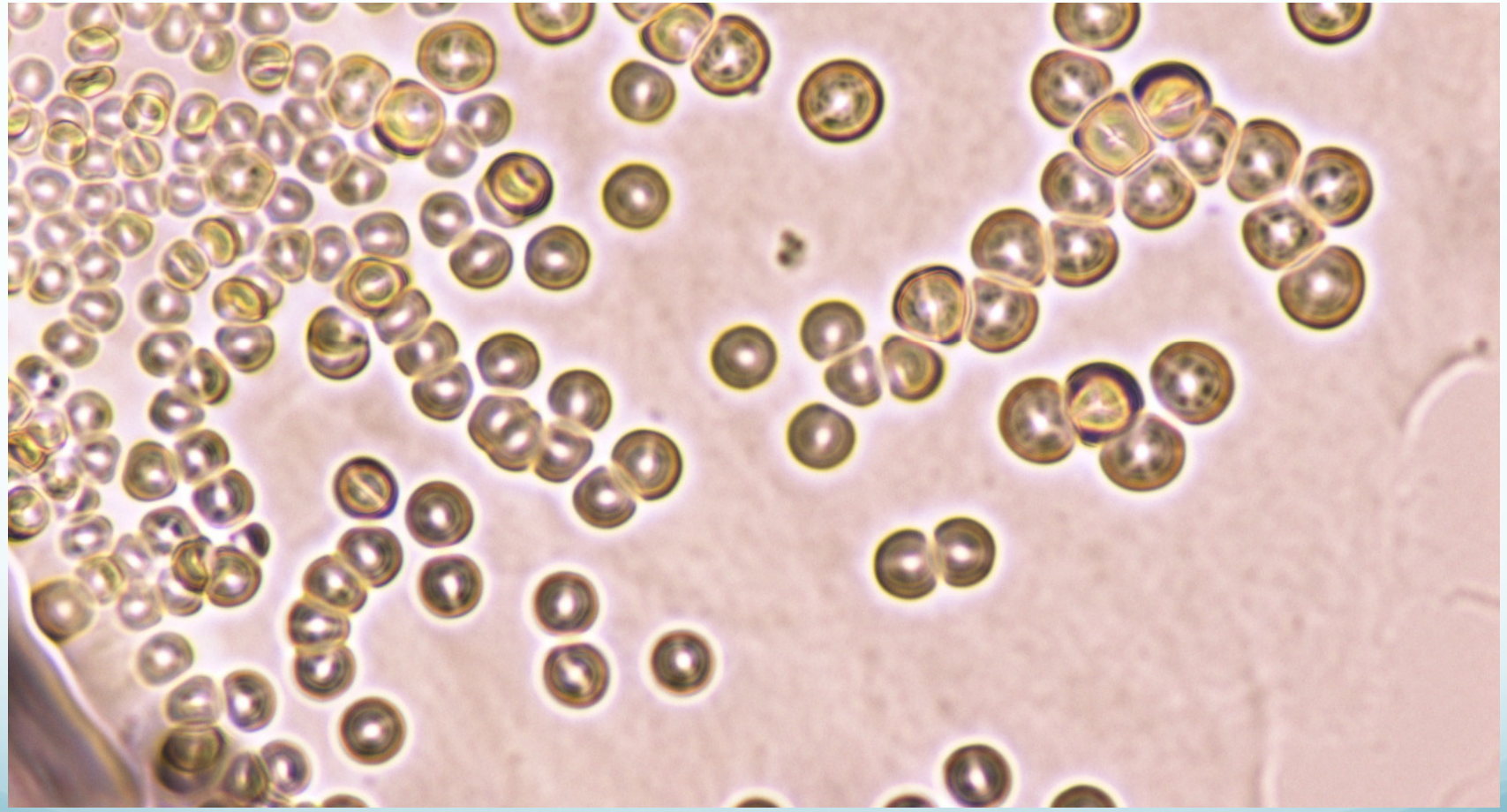


Artifacts

- Glove powder crystals
- Sloughed skin cells (fingerprints)
- Sample inadvertently scraped from slide
- Reusing slides for cytology is not recommended



Glove Powder Crystals



Key Points

- Call first to assure you have the supplies needed to properly collect and ship the sample
- Blood – ship overnight, on ice packs
- Cytology – slides need to be sent in a rigid container, preferably a plastic container
  - **DO NOT ship cytology specimens with histopathology samples in formalin jars!**
- Fluids – send a sample in EdTA, a sample in a red top tube and make a fresh smear to preserve cellular morphology
- Fecal samples – air tight container

Key Points Cont…

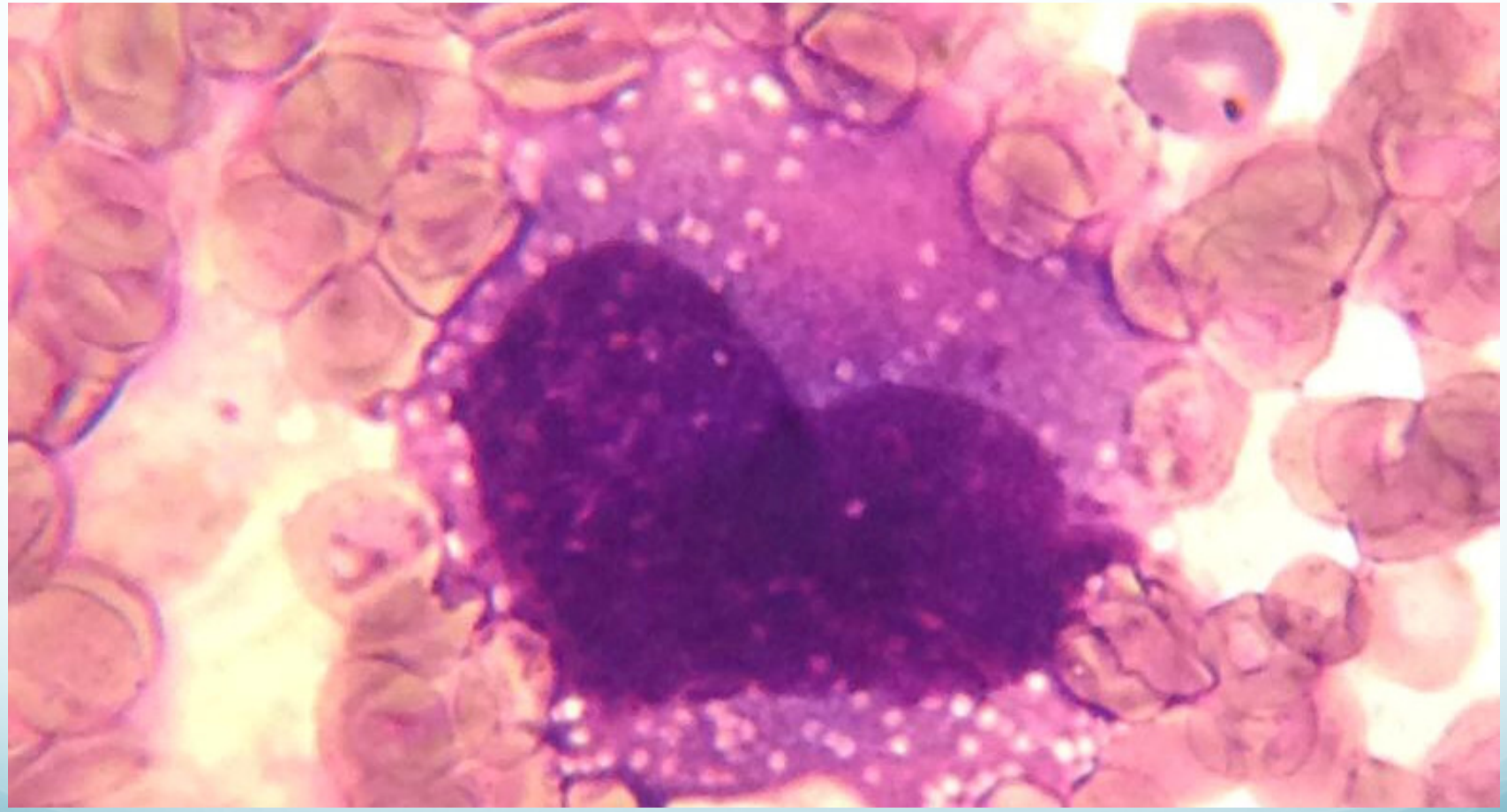
- Call the Lab before collection
- Be expedient when collection, processing and sending your samples
- Be sure to completely label your sample
- Be sure to fill the correct paperwork and include sample origin and full patient information.



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QUESTIONS?



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