Handling of a Bone Marrow “Dry Tap”

CGI has a very high success rate with limited amounts of specimen submitted for flow cytometry and/or cytogenetic studies, with the same turnaround time as more cellular aspirate specimens. The following specimen collection method can help our hemato-pathologists to reach a conclusive diagnosis on these types of specimens:

1. Collect 2 or more Bone Marrow Core biopsies
   a. Make 5-10 touch imprint slides from the biopsies
      • For Cytology and Morphology.
      - Be sure to keep slides AWAY FROM FORMALIN
      - Do not place open formalin jar anywhere near slides as the formalin fumes may affect the quality of morphologic evaluation
      - Let all slides AIR DRY COMPLETELY before placing in the plastic container to prevent smudging
   b. Place the 1st bone marrow core biopsy in a Formalin jar
      • For Histology and IHC testing
   c. Place the 2nd biopsy in RPMI media
      • For Flow Cytometry and/or Cytogenetics testing
      - Store in refrigerator until shipped
   d. Additional samples should be submitted for histology

2. Collect a peripheral blood specimen in a Sodium Heparin or green top tube
   • For possible Flow Cytometry and/or FISH testing, if indicated.

3. Collect a peripheral blood specimen in an EDTA or purple top tube
   • For possible PCR testing, if indicated.

4. Indicate on REQUISITION that the specimen is a “DRY TAP”

5. Place each specimen in the Biohazard bag before placing in kit

6. Call 888-334-4988 or 201-528-9187 for a specimen pickup or contact your local account representative or client services if you have any questions.