

## **BODY FLUID EVALUATION (CLINICAL MICROSCOPY)**

### **A. SPECIMEN COLLECTION:**

1. Samples of cerebrospinal (CSF), pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, and synovial fluid will be accepted. A minimum volume of one (1) ml is required.
2. A brief clinical history should be provided.
3. Submit specimens to the laboratory immediately after collection from the patient to avoid degeneration of cellular elements and possible clot formation.

### **B. TEST MENU AND NORMAL RANGES**

1. CSF: Cerebrospinal fluid is usually collected in three sterile screw cap tubes found in spinal sets. NO ANTICOAGULANT. Collect a minimum of 3 ml in each tube and label the tubes 1,2, and 3 in order of collection. Submit tube 1 to Chemistry, tube 2 to Microbiology, and tube 3 to Hematology. Bring to the laboratory immediately.
  - a. Normal Ranges:
    - (1) Appearance: Clear and colorless
    - (2) Cell count:
      - Adults: 0-5 WBC/CUMM
      - < 1 Year: 0-30 WBC/CUMM
      - 1-4 Years: 0-20 WBC/CUMM
      - 5 Year – Puberty: 0-10 WBC/CUMM
  - b. Differential: Differential cell count is performed if WBC cell count is low, a smear is prepared using the cytoteck centrifuge. If the cell count is high, a smear is prepared from undiluted specimen. A minimum of 100 cells is counted in all cases.
2. Pleural, pericardial and peritoneal fluid: Collect in a syringe with heparin and transfer to purple top
  - a. Normal Ranges:
    - (1) Appearance Clear and pale yellow
    - (2) Cell count and diff: NA
3. Semen Analysis: Must be prescheduled with the Laboratory Receptionist. Post-vasectomy samples should be clearly marked as such.
4. Synovial Fluid: Collect in syringe with sodium heparin and transfer to purple top or green top with heparin. Normal Appearance is clear to straw.