

## TRAINING UPDATE

**Lab Location:** GEC, SGMC & WOMC  
**Department:** Core Lab

**Date Distributed:** 4/7/2020  
**Due Date:** 5/1/2020  
**Implementation:** 5/4/2020

### DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE REVISION

<b>Name of procedure:</b>	
<b>Body and Synovial Fluid Analysis, Manual Method SGMC.H09 v7 Cell Count Worksheet AG.F12.7</b>	
<b>Description of change(s):</b>	
<p><b><u>SOP Major change</u></b> = <i>use saline instead of methylene blue to dilute samples AND add correlation check</i></p>	
<b>Section</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Header	Changed WAH to WOMC
4.1, 4.2	Deleted methylene blue diluting fluid
6.3	Deleted diluting fluid check
8.2	Changed diluent to 0.9% saline, added steps for undiluted sample
10.1	Added correlation check
<p><b><u>FORM:</u></b> Change ‘diluting fluid check’ to Correlation Check and update Instructions to match 9step 6)</p>	
<p><b>This revised SOP &amp; FORM will be implemented on May 4, 2020</b></p>	


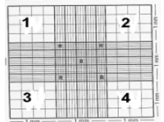
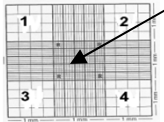
**Document your compliance with this training update by taking the quiz in the MTS system.**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Med. Rec. # \_\_\_\_\_

Specimen #: \_\_\_\_\_ Tech Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Correlation Check:** Acceptable? YES or NO (circle one)

Automated Count

Manual # of cells in 1 Square	1		2		3	
	<20- Count all 9 squares 		>20- Count 4 corner squares 		>200- 5/25 in center square 	
	RBC	TNC	RBC	TNC	RBC	TNC
Chamber 1						
Chamber 2						
Average						
Correction Factor	X 1.1	X 1.1	X 2.5	X 2.5	X 50	X 50
Multiply by correction factor						
Multiply by Dilution	X _____	X _____	X _____	X _____	X _____	X _____
Final result						

Tube # \_\_\_\_\_ Volume \_\_\_\_\_ Crenated RBCs: \_\_\_\_\_

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Appearance \_\_\_\_\_

Fluid Type \_\_\_\_\_ Diff: Poly \_\_\_\_\_

Second Tech Review \_\_\_\_\_

Lymph	
Mono/Macro	
Eos	
Other Cells	
Crystals	

**Master Formula**

\_\_\_\_\_ cells  
# of squares counted X 10 X dilution = Cells/μL

**Instructions for use:**

- Evaluate the number of cells in one square. If < 20 cells, record all results on column #1. If > 20 cells are observed, record all results on column #2. If > 200 cells are observed, record all results on column #3.
- Count the RBC's and TNC's for each chamber separately. Record the results in the corresponding location.
- Average the result. Add the number of cells counted in both chambers and divide by 2. Record this number in the column for the average number of cells observed.
- Multiply the average number of cells by the Correction Factor. Multiply by the dilution (if applicable).
- Record the final count in the appropriate square for the cell type, i.e. RBC's or TNC's.
- Perform Correlation Check (verify the number of nucleated cells and non-nucleated cells from differential correlate against the cell count). If Acceptable, circles YES on manual fluid worksheet. If not acceptable, circle NO on manual worksheet and repeat count or differential.
- Record the results in the LIS, have second tech review before accepting.
- Keep this sheet in the Cell Count Worksheet binder.

Technical SOP

<b>Title</b>	<b>Body and Synovial Fluid Analysis, Manual Method</b>	
<b>Prepared by</b>	Cynthia Reidenauer / Cathy Keifer	Date: 11/22/2011
<b>Owner</b>	Robert SanLuis	Date: 11/26/2013

<b>Laboratory Approval</b>	<b>Local Effective Date:</b>	
<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Refer to the electronic signature page for approval and approval dates.</i>		

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Test Information .....	2
2. Analytical Principle .....	2
3. Specimen Requirements .....	2
4. Reagents.....	4
5. Calibrators/Standards.....	5
6. Quality Control .....	6
7. Equipment And Supplies .....	7
8. Procedure .....	8
9. Calculations .....	12
10. Reporting Results And Repeat Criteria .....	12
11. Expected Values .....	14
12. Clinical Significance.....	15
13. Procedure Notes.....	18
14. Limitations Of Method .....	18
15. Safety .....	18
16. Related Documents.....	18
17. References.....	19
18. Revision History .....	19
19. Addenda.....	20

**1. TEST INFORMATION**

Assay	Method/Instrument	Local Code
Cell Count and Diff, Pleural Fluid Cell Count and Diff, Peritoneal Fluid Cell Count and Diff, Pericardial	Hemocytometer, Microscope	FLCNT for all Body fluids EXCEPT Synovial (see below)
Cell Count and Diff, Synovial Fluid to include Crystal exam (SGMC & WOMC perform counts, crystals are SGMC only)		SFCC

**Note: Refer to CSF specific procedures for that specimen type**

Synonyms/Abbreviations
Body fluid cell count/Body Fluid Exam Synovial Fluid cell count/Synovial Fluid Exam
Department
Hematology

**2. ANALYTICAL PRINCIPLE**

The total RBC and nucleated cell count in body fluids is performed manually using a hemacytometer. A differential cell count is performed via cytopsin. The color, appearance and volume of the fluid are also reported.

**In Synovial Fluids only, crystals** are first observed microscopically with polarizing lenses, and if present, are identified.

**3. SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS**

**3.1 Patient Preparation**

Component	Special Notations
Fasting/Special Diets	Not applicable
Specimen Collection and/or Timing	None defined
Special Collection Procedures	Fluid is collected in sterile vacuum bottle or other collection container (syringe) and then aliquoted as needed. <b>Process for Synovial Fluid specimens at Germantown Emergency Department ONLY:</b> <b>Germantown:</b> 1. <u>Record Total Volume</u> onto original specimen label and lavender top tube and then aliquot specimen into

Component	Special Notations
	appropriate containers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3mL into Lavender Top (EDTA) for cell count</li> <li>• 1mL into plastic vial unpreserved for crystal analysis</li> <li>• 1mL into sterile container for culture and gram stain</li> <li>• 2mL into plastic aliquot tube to be sent to Chantilly (by core lab processors) for chemistry analysis.</li> </ul> 2. Inspect the sample prior to sending to SGMC for testing. If solid clots are found, notify the caregivers of the extent of testing that can be performed on the sample. 3. Track specimen to SGMC using the template GLAB and send to SGMC via STAT courier. 4. KEEP some of the original sample at GEC.
<b>Other</b>	Not applicable

### 3.2 Specimen Type & Handling

Criteria	
<b>Type -Preferred</b>	<i>Site specified on collection</i> 3 mL fluid in EDTA for Count, Diff 1 mL fluid (unpreserved) for Crystal
<b>-Other Acceptable</b>	3 mL fluid in Heparin or Plastic Vial
<b>Collection Container - Alternate</b>	Lavender Top Tube Heparin (Green Top Tube) or Plastic Vial
<b>Volume - Optimum - Minimum</b>	3.0 mL 1.0 mL <i>If less than 1.0 mL is received, call the physician and ask the priority of tests needed. Note: In the case of a small volume synovial fluid, the crystal exam may be the top priority</i>
<b>Transport Container and Temperature</b>	Collection container at room temperature
<b>Stability &amp; Storage Requirements</b>	<b>Room Temperature:</b> 48 hours
	<b>Refrigerated:</b> 48 hours
	<b>Frozen:</b> Unacceptable
<b>Timing Considerations</b>	Not applicable

Criteria	
<b>Unacceptable Specimens &amp; Actions to Take</b>	<p><b>Due to the nature of these specimens, do not reject unless frozen.</b></p> <p><b>Clotted specimens:</b> Perform counts and append the code SCLOT (<i>Specimen contains clots, counts may not be accurate</i>).</p> <p><b>Solid Clot:</b> Transfer surrounding fluid to another tube (see section 8.2) but avoid transferring clot. Testing may be run on Sysmex or manually depending on sample volume. Add free text comment to results: "Solid clot noted"</p> <p><b>Specimens received after 48 hours:</b> Perform counts and append the code SAGE (<i>Counts may not be accurate due to the age of the specimen</i>).</p> <p><b>If the specimen is received frozen:</b> Cancel the test with the reason code SFRZ (<i>Specimen unsuitable for assay; received frozen</i>). Notify the attending nurse or physician. Note: In Cerner reason for cancellation will be "improper collection".</p>
<b>Compromising Physical Characteristics</b>	None defined
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None defined

**NOTE: Labeling requirements for all reagents, calibrators and controls include: (1) Open date, (2) Substance name, (3) Lot number, (4) Date of preparation, (5) Expiration date, (6) Initials of tech, and (7) Any special storage instructions. Check all for visible signs of degradation.**

#### 4. REAGENTS

The package insert for a new lot of kits must be reviewed for any changes before the kit is used. A current Package Insert is included as a Related Document.

##### 4.1 Reagent Summary

Reagents	Supplier & Catalog Number
Rinse	ELITechGroup SS-071 A
Thiazin	ELITechGroup SS-071 B
Eosin	ELITechGroup SS-071 C
Methanol	ELITechGroup SS-MEOH
Aerofix (Additive for Methanol)	ELITechGroup SS-148
0.9% Saline	Thermo 0.9% Saline cat # 23535435
22% Albumin (Obtain from Blood Bank)	Immucor CE 0088
RAL Diff-Quik Stain Pak	RAL Diagnostics #720555-0000
<b>0.005% Methylene Blue Diluting Fluid</b>	<b>Chantilly reagent room</b>

**4.2 Reagent Preparation and Storage**

<b>Reagent A</b>	<b>ELITechGroup Aerospray Rinse</b>
<b>Reagent B</b>	<b>ELITechGrout Aerospray Thiazin</b>
<b>Reagent C</b>	<b>ELITechGroup Aerospray Eosin</b>
<b>Container</b>	Plastic Bottle
<b>Storage</b>	5-30°C
<b>Stability</b>	Manufacturer's expiration date
<b>Preparation</b>	Ready to use

<b>Reagent</b>	<b>Wescor Aerospray Aerofix</b>
<b>Container</b>	Plastic Bottle
<b>Storage</b>	15-30°C
<b>Stability</b>	Manufacturer's expiration date
<b>Preparation</b>	Add 10 mL to Methanol and mix well prior to use.

<b>Reagent</b>	<b>0.9% Saline</b> (Obtain fresh daily from Blood Bank)
<b>Container</b>	Plastic Bottle
<b>Storage</b>	15-30°C
<b>Stability</b>	24 hours, working supply in hematology. Open expiration on container in Blood Bank is 30 days.
<b>Preparation</b>	Ready to use

<b>Reagent</b>	<b>22% Bovine Albumin</b>
<b>Container</b>	Glass Bottle 10 mL
<b>Storage</b>	1 - 10C for long term storage
<b>Stability</b>	Stable until expiration date on the bottle. If turbid, discard.
<b>Preparation</b>	Ready to use

<b>Reagent</b>	<b>RAL Diff-Quik Stain Pack</b>
<b>Container</b>	Plastic Bottle
<b>Storage</b>	15 - 25C
<b>Stability</b>	<b>Unopened:</b> Until expiration date on box label. <b>Opened:</b> Remains stable 2 months after opening. Keep away from light.
<b>Preparation</b>	Ready to use

**5. CALIBRATORS/STANDARDS**

N/A

**6. QUALITY CONTROL**

**6.1 Controls Used**

Control	Supplier & Catalog Number
Cell-Chex L1-UC, L1-CC and L2 (2mL each)	Streck Laboratories, Inc. Cat # 212431
Cell-Chex L1-UC, L2	Streck Laboratories, Inc. Cat # 212420
Cell-Chex L1-CC	Streck Laboratories, Inc. Cat # 212430

**6.2 Control Preparation and Storage**

<b>Control</b>	Cell-Chex Level L1-UC, L1-CC and L2
<b>Preparation</b>	None required. It is not necessary to warm the controls to room temperature before using.
<b>Storage/Stability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store upright at 2-10°C</li> <li>• Closed-vial stability 180 days</li> <li>• Open-vial stability 30 days</li> </ul>

**6.3 Frequency**

- **Cell Count and Cytocentrifuge QC** is performed every 8 hours of patient testing for manual body fluid counting and per technologist.  
 QC menu each level of controls is as follows:  
     L1-UC     perform cell count and crystal exam  
     L1-CC     perform a cytospin differential and a crystal exam  
     L2         perform cell count only  
     **Note:** crystal exam only performed at SGMC
- **Automated or Manual stain method** comparison is performed once per day. A smear must be reviewed on a daily basis to verify that the staining is adequate for differential of the various cells. The result of this review is documented in the manual Hematology QC book.
- ~~Diluting fluid must be checked daily for contamination and documented. Refer to section 8.3~~

**6.4 Tolerance Limits and Criteria for Acceptable QC**

- a) **Cell count by Manual Hemacytometer:**  
 QC values for Manual Hemacytometer are lot specific so check package insert for lot number and expiration date. The lot number and ranges for each lot in use will be available on the Cell Chex Log.
- b) **Differential %:**  
 QC values for Differential % are lot specific so check package insert. The lot number and ranges for each lot in use will be available on the Cell Chex Differential Log.



**c) Crystal exam (SGMC only)**

Note the absence or presence of crystals and using the polarizer attachment identify the type of crystal present; Monosodium Urate (uric acid) or Calcium Phosphate.

The lot number and ranges for each lot in use will be available on the Cell Chex Log.

**d) Corrective Action:**

- All rejected runs must be effectively addressed through corrective action. Steps taken in response to QC failures must be documented. Patient samples in failed analytical runs must be reanalyzed.
- Corrective action documentation must include the following: The QC rule(s) (or specific QC criteria) violated, the root cause of the problem, steps taken to correct the problem, how patient samples were handled, and the date and initials of the person recording the information.

**e) Review of QC**

- Refer to SOP Quality Control Program for more details.
- Upon weekly and monthly review of QC, if the results exceed allowable ranges, then verify investigation and corrective actions were documented.

**6.5 Documentation**

QC results are recorded on the Cell Chex QC log sheets.

**6.6 Quality Assurance Program**

The laboratory participates in CAP proficiency testing.

**7. EQUIPMENT and SUPPLIES****7.1 Assay Platform**

Not applicable

**7.2 Equipment**

Microscope  
Aerospray Cyto centrifuge  
CytoTek centrifuge (GEC only)

**7.3 Supplies**

Disposable Pipettes  
Hemocytometer (disposable) C-CHIP  
MLA pipette and tips

Disposable tubes  
Cover glass  
Microscope slides  
Petri dish  
Applicator sticks  
Cytopro  
Cyto-Tek 2500 (GEC)

## 8. PROCEDURE

**NOTE:** For all procedures involving specimens, buttoned lab coats, gloves, and face protection are required minimum personal protective equipment. Report all accidents to your supervisor.

**8.1 Color:** Determine the color of the body fluid and report as:

IF	THEN	IF	THEN
Amber	AMB	Gray White	GRAY
Blue	BLUE	Orange	ORNG
Brown	BRWN	Red	RED
Colorless	COLR	Straw	STRAW
Dark Yellow	DYEL	Yellow	YEL
Green	GRN		

**8.2 Appearance:** Determine the appearance of the body fluid and report as:

IF	THEN	IF	THEN
Bloody	BLDY	Clotted	CLTD
Bloody, cloudy	BLDY-CLDY	Hazy	HAZY
Clear	CLEAR	Turbid	TUR
Cloudy	CLDY	Slightly Cloudy	SLCL

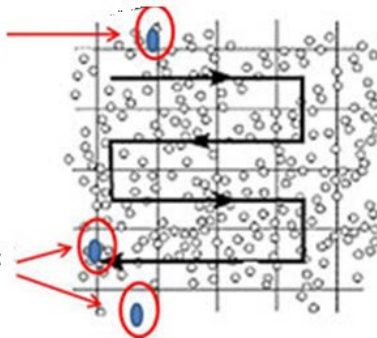
### 8.3 Concentration

Step	Specimen Preparation
1.	Inspect specimen to determine the appropriate dilution. <a href="#">The sample can be assayed without diluting if the cell count is low. Follow steps for un-diluted sample.</a>
2.	Mix specimen well and make the appropriate <a href="#">dilution with 0.9% saline</a> . Refer to dilution tables below.

Step	<a href="#">Un-diluted Sample</a>
1.	Charge the two chambers of the hemacytometer by touching the tip of the pipette to the coverslip edge where it meets the chamber floor. The chamber

Step	Un-diluted Sample
	will fill by capillary action if the hemacytometer and coverslip are clean.
2.	If the hemacytometer is overcharged, it must be discarded and a fresh one used.
3.	Place the charged hemacytometer in a humidified Petri dish for 10 minutes to allow the cells to settle.
4.	<p>Place the hemacytometer on the microscope and examine. The area to be counted is adjusted according to the sample.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If less than 20 cells are present in one square, count all the squares.</li> <li>• If greater than 20 and less than 200 cells are present in one square, count the four corner squares only.</li> <li>• If greater than 200 cells are present in one square count 5 of the 25 squares in the middle square.</li> <li>• Move the hemacytometer in a zigzag pattern as shown. For cells that overlap the outside lines, count it as “in” if it overlaps the top or right line, and “out” if it overlaps the bottom or left.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Cell touching the right or top ruling = in</b>  <b>Cell touching the left or bottom ruling = out</b> </p> <p>ALWAYS USE THE AVERAGE COUNT FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE CHAMBER IN THE FORMULA. Count the total number of RBCs and nucleated cells present on both sides. The sides should agree within 20%.</p>
5.	Calculate the total number of RBCs and nucleated cells. Follow instructions on the Cell Count Worksheet to calculate results.
6.	All calculations must be recorded on worksheet.

Step	1:2 Dilution
1.	Mix specimen well. Using a 100µL pipette, add 100µL of body fluid to 100µL of 0.9% saline. Mix dilution well. Let sit 10-15 minutes. <b>Dilution Factor is 2</b>
2.	Charge the two chambers of the hemacytometer by touching the tip of the pipette to the sample injection area. The chamber will fill by capillary action if the hemacytometer is clean.
3.	If the hemacytometer is overcharged, it must be discarded and a fresh one used.
4.	Place the charged hemacytometer in a humidified Petri dish for 10 minutes to allow the cells to settle.
5.	Place the hemacytometer on the microscope and examine. The area to be counted is adjusted according to the sample.

Step	1:2 Dilution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If less than 20 cells are present in one square, count all the squares.</li> <li>• If greater than 20 cells are present in one square, count the four corner squares only.</li> <li>• If greater than 200 cells are present in one square, count 5 of the 25 squares in the middle square.</li> <li>• Move the hemacytometer in a zigzag pattern as show below. For cells that overlap the outside lines, count it as "in" if it overlaps the top or right line, and "out" if it overlaps the bottom or left</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cell touching the right or top ruling = in</b> → </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cell touching the left or bottom ruling = out</b> →</p> <p>ALWAYS USE THE AVERAGE COUNT FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE CHAMBER IN THE FORMULA. Count the total number of RBCs and nucleated cells present on both sides. The sides should agree within 20%.</p>
6.	Calculate the total number of RBCs and nucleated cells. Follow instructions on the Cell Count Worksheet to calculate results.
7.	All calculations must be recorded on worksheet.

Step	Other Dilutions																				
1.	<p>Mix specimen well. Following the chart below, add specified amount of body fluid to specified amount of <b>0.9% saline</b>. Mix dilution well. Let sit 10-15 minutes.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dilution</th> <th>Body Fluid volume</th> <th>0.9% Saline</th> <th>Dilution Factor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1:10</td> <td>100µL</td> <td>900µL</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:20</td> <td>50µL</td> <td>950µL</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:50</td> <td>20µL</td> <td>980µL</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:100</td> <td>10µL</td> <td>990µL</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Dilution	Body Fluid volume	0.9% Saline	Dilution Factor	1:10	100µL	900µL	10	1:20	50µL	950µL	20	1:50	20µL	980µL	50	1:100	10µL	990µL	100
Dilution	Body Fluid volume	0.9% Saline	Dilution Factor																		
1:10	100µL	900µL	10																		
1:20	50µL	950µL	20																		
1:50	20µL	980µL	50																		
1:100	10µL	990µL	100																		
2.	Charge a counting chamber (one pipette per side), using proper technique.																				
3.	Place in a Petri dish for about 10 minutes to let the cells settle.																				
4.	For counting guidelines, follow steps <b>5 through 7</b> for 1:2 Dilution																				

### 8.4 Cytospin

Step	Cytospin
1.	Assemble sample chamber and glass microscope slide in the Aerospray

Step	Cytospin	
	cytocentrifuge carousel. At GEC, follow Cytospin procedure.	
2.	IF	THEN
	Nucleated cell count is <300	Place 2-3 drops of fluid plus 1 drop of albumin into a disposable cytofunnel and place into the Cytospin centrifuge. The albumin is used to make the cells adhere to the slide better before the staining procedure. Synovial fluids do not require albumin added.
3.	Nucleated cell count is >300	Cells/ $\mu$ L
		301-700
		701-1500
		1501-3000
		>3000
		Dilution
		1:2 (5 drops fluid+ 5 drops saline)
		1:5 (2 drops fluid + 10 drops saline )
		1:10 (2 drops fluid + 20 drops saline)
		1:20 (2 drops fluid + 40 drops saline)
		Mix dilution well. Place one (1) drop of albumin into the Cytospin funnel and then add 3-5 drops of the diluted sample.
3.	<b>Centrifuge Sample:</b> See procedure Aerospray Hematology Slide Stainer Cytocentrifuge (SGMC/WOMC) or Cytospin CSF/Body Fluid Slide Preparation (GEC) as appropriate.	
4.	Stain slide using the Aerospray stainer or Diff Quick Stain Pack as appropriate	

**8.5 Differential Count**

IF	THEN
Cell count is <10	Do not perform differential. Result with <b>NOTP-</b> ;due to an insufficient number of cells in the sample.
Cell count is >10	Perform a 5 part differential of 100 cells on a cytocentrifuged specimen using Wescor slide stainer, or a manual stain (GEC). The nucleated cells are classified and reported as a percentage. Examine smear for the presence of immature or abnormal cells, crystals and bacteria. Refer to a Pathologist if abnormal or immature cells are noted.

**8.6 Crystal Examination (SGMC only)**

Step	Crystal Examination
1.	Place a drop of fluid on a clean glass slide and cover slip. Examine the preparation using polarized light to detect monosodium urate or calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate or cholesterol crystals.
2.	Refer to the appropriate addenda for polarizer instructions based on your site.
3.	Using 40X lens, scan for presence of refractile material, crystals normally are either needle shaped or rod shaped and may be intra or extracellular (exceptions being cholesterol plates; irregular shaped steroid crystals and contaminants).

Step	Crystal Examination
4.	Having located a crystal, carefully rotate the full wave plate to the right so that it now overlaps onto the illuminator. Moving the orientation handle while observing the crystal will result in a color change of the crystal. To properly identify crystals it is necessary to find at least one crystal oriented in North-South (vertical) and one in East-West (horizontal) position.
5.	With the small handle (red compensator) to the left of the front slot opening, thus separating the light according to components of slow and fast vibration, the crystal can be identified. With the above setting, the direction of vibration is the slower component. This setting is such that if the long axis of a crystal lined up horizontally to the front is <u>blue</u> in this position it is <u>positively birefringent</u> . If the crystal is <u>yellow</u> in this position, it is <u>negatively birefringent</u> . When the red compensator is rotated 90 degrees to the right side, the positively birefringent crystal turns yellow and the negatively birefringent crystal turns blue. <b>Monosodium Urates exhibit a Negative birefringence</b> with the red compensator; <b>Calcium Pyrophosphates exhibit a Positive birefringence</b> with the red compensator.
6.	Monosodium uric acid crystals are oriented parallel to the slow north-south axis and will be yellow in color. The east west will be blue. If the polarizer orientation handle is moved to the extreme right, the north-south crystals will be blue and the east-west crystals will be yellow.
7.	Calcium pyrophosphate crystals (pseudogout) are parallel with the north-south axis will be blue. The east-west ones will be yellow. Moving the orientation handle to the extreme right will switch the colors.
8.	Cholesterol crystals are rhombic or rectangular notched plates. They may polarize into many colors.

## 9. CALCULATIONS

Refer to cell count worksheet. The master cell count formula is:

$$\frac{\text{Cells Counted}}{\text{\# of squares counted}} \times 10 \times \text{dilution}$$

## 10. REPORTING RESULTS AND REPEAT CRITERIA

### 10.1 Interpretation of Data

**Perform Correlation Check** by verifying the number of nucleated cells and non-nucleated cells from the differential correlate with the cell count. *Example:* If rare RBCs are seen on the differential, then there should be a “low” number of RBCs for the count.

- If acceptable, circle YES on the manual fluid worksheet.
- If not acceptable, circle NO on the manual worksheet and repeat count or differential.

## 10.2 Rounding

All results are rounded to whole numbers.

## 10.3 Units of Measure

Parameter	Units
RBC	Cells/ $\mu$ l
WBC	Cells/ $\mu$ l
Differential Counts	%

## 10.4 Clinical Reportable Range

None defined

## 10.5 Review Patient Data

Since only a few patient samples may be tested in one day, daily review for trends may not be applicable.

## 10.6 Repeat Criteria and Resulting

Any duplicate counts not agreeing within 20% must be repeated.

All Body fluid and Synovial fluid counts must be reviewed by a second technologist prior to resulting. Calculations must be rechecked and proper placement and documentation of cell counts on the worksheet must be verified. In addition, once typed into the computer a second technologist must verify the proper placement of the counts **PRIOR to accepting the results.**

### **Second tech review for Germantown Emergency Center ONLY:**

Due to the fact that there is only one person working per shift, if a Body fluid is performed then it will be the first duty of the next shift tech to review the cell count worksheet and compare it to the results entered into the computer. The reviewing tech will initial that the second tech review was performed.

### **Pathology Review:**

All fluids that need a pathology review are to be taken to the pathologist on call for Hematology. All slides are to be accompanied by an IRA report from the LIS and the Pathologist Slide Review form.

### **Resulting:**

Fluid Type is entered during the accessioning process.

Cell Counts, Color and Appearance -

Manually enter into SQ using the appropriate worksheet (SGMC is SHE, WAH is WHE, GEC is GHE).

“HIDE” should be typed for “Fluid Total Cells” when count is performed manually.

```
Fluid Count
Fluid Type          Pleural Fluid
Fluid Apperance    SIcloudy
Fluid Color         Yellow
Fluid Total Cells  <do not report>    cells/mcL
FLUID WBC           15000                      cells/mcL
FLUID RBC           100                        /uL
```

Differential -

Refer to the addendum *Fluid Keyboard: Accessing Differential Result Entry for Body Fluid* for details to result via the SQ keyboard and documentation of pathology review.

Note: Manual differentials must be performed when TEa failures on Sysmex (difference between TC-BF and WBC-BF) exceeds the TEa of 20%.

**10.7 Crystal Resulting**

Report the presence or absence of crystals seen under high power using these codes:

LIS Code	Translation
CAPYCS	Calcium Pyrophosphate crystals seen
MURACS	Monosodium Urate crystals seen
CHOLCS	Cholesterol crystals seen
NONES	None seen

**11. EXPECTED VALUES**



### 11.1 Reference Ranges

#### Pericardial, Peritoneal, Pleural Fluid

Parameter / Units of Measurement	Reference Range
Color	Straw
Appearance	Clear
Red Blood Cells / $\mu$ l	Not established
White Blood Cells / $\mu$ l	Not established
Differential / %	Not established

#### Synovial Fluid

Parameter / Units of Measurement	Reference Range
Color	Straw
Appearance	Clear
Red Blood Cells / $\mu$ l	Not Established
White Blood Cells / $\mu$ l	10 - 200
Neutrophils / %	15 - 45
Lymphocytes / %	40 - 80
Monocyte/Macrophage / %	15 - 45
Eosinophils / %	Not Established
Crystal	None Seen

### 11.2 Critical Values

None established

### 11.3 Standard Required Messages

None established

## 12. CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE

### 12.1 Pleural and Ascitic Fluid

These fluids are classed as either transudates or exudates. The class indication is of great diagnostic importance.

- Transudates are due to alterations in the formation or reabsorption and are mechanical rather than pathologic in nature.
- Exudates are caused by an increase in the formation and decrease in reabsorption of the fluid (pleural or ascitic). Inflammation of the pleural or peritoneal lining or other diseases causes the formation of this fluid.

To differentiate fluids into transudates and exudates:

Parameter	Transudates	Exudates
Specific Gravity	<1.016	>1.016
Protein	<3.0 g/dl	>3.0 g/dl
LDH	<200 IU	>200 IU
Total Nucleated Cell Count	<1000/nm <sup>3</sup> (Predominant cell type mononuclear)	>1000/nm <sup>3</sup>
Cultures	Negative	Positive or Negative

Some causes of ascetic fluid effusions are:

- **Transudates:** Congestive heart failure, cirrhosis, hypoproteinemia, and diffuse hepatic metastases.
- **Exudates:** Infections (either primary or secondary peritonitis), malignant disorders, trauma, and pancreatitis.
- **Chylous:** Trauma, carcinoma, lymphoma, and tuberculosis.

## 12.2 Peritoneal Dialysate

- Is used frequently for home renal dialysis patients. Samples of this fluid may be sent to the lab to check for leukocytosis due to bacterial infection. A large proportion of these patients develop peritonitis in the first year of treatment.
- A WBC count of more than 100/mm<sup>3</sup> with >50% neutrophils is the criteria used to establish an infection. The Wright stained smear will frequently show both intracellular and/or extracellular bacteria.

## 12.3 Synovial Fluid: Categorization of Arthritides or Joint Diseases

Except for the identification of crystals and culture for microorganisms, synovial fluid examination usually does not elicit a specific diagnosis. However, examination of the following characteristics is often valuable in categorizing a joint disease and in facilitating the establishment of a diagnosis: volume, clarity, color, viscosity, mucin clot formation, spontaneous glucose, crystals, and microbiologic culture.

By evaluating these characteristics of the fluid, joint disorders can be separated into five disease groups:

Disease Groups	Joint Disorders
Group I Non - inflammatory	Degenerative joint disease, Trauma, Osteochondritis dissecans, Osteochondromatosis, Neuropathic osteoarthropathy, Pigmented villonodular synovitis
Group II Inflammatory	Rheumatoid arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, Alkylosing spondylitis, Rheumatic fever, System lupus erythematosus, Scleroderma, Arthritis with Chronic ulcerative colitis or Regional enteritis
Group III Infections	Bacterial, Fungal
Group IV Crystal - induced	Gout, Pseudogout

Disease Groups	Joint Disorders
Group V Hemorrhage	Hemorrhagic diatheses including – Hemophilia, Trauma, Neuropathic osteoarthropathy

Synovial Fluid Test Results According to Group of Arthritides						
Test	Normal	Group I Noninflammatory	Group II Inflammatory	Group III Infectious	Group IV Crystal Induced	Group V Hemorrhagic
Clarity	Clear	Clear or Cloudy	Cloudy	Very Cloudy	Cloudy	Very Cloudy
Color	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Gray-white	Opalescent or colorless	Bloody
Leukocyte Count, per mm <sup>3</sup>	<200	200-3,000	3,000 - >100,000	10,000 - >100,000	1,000 - 100,000	>5,000
% PMN (Segs)	<25	<30	>50	>80	>70	>25
Crystals	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

**12.4** Crystals are seldom seen except in arthritides Group IV. Urate crystals are seen in gout; calcium pyrophosphate crystals are seen in pseudogout; and corticosteroid crystals may be present following therapeutic intra-articular injection of steroid. The presence of cholesterol crystals has been described in osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and familial hypercholesterolemia. Oxalate crystals will be seen if the synovial fluid was collected in tubes containing oxalate anticoagulant.

**12.5** Corticosteroid crystals are usually needle-shaped. They can be present in leukocytes, and have varying birefringence patterns depending on the particular steroid preparation used for therapeutic injection. Consequently, for correct interpretation of needle-shaped crystals, one must know whether a prior therapeutic injection has been given. Cholesterol crystals appear as notched plates, are not present in leukocytes, and are strongly birefringent.

**12.6 Additional Microscopic Findings:**

The microscopic examination of synovial fluid may show red cells, leukocytes, and crystal-bearing leukocytes, as previously described. The presence of synoviocytes (synovial lining cells) in the fluid is associated with pigmented villonodular synovitis, rheumatic fever and osteoarthritis. Synovial cells are round and much larger than leukocytes. Cartilage cells, when present in the synovial fluid, are associated with traumatic arthritis, osteoarthritis, and pseudogout. Cartilage cells are much larger than leukocytes and irregular in outline. RA cells, also called ragocytes, are segmented neutrophils containing round inclusions in their cytoplasm. These inclusions contain immunoglobulin and complement. As the name implies, RA cells occur in rheumatoid arthritis, but are not specific for the diagnosis. Wright-stained smears from patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) may show typical LE cells in the synovial fluid.

### 13. PROCEDURE NOTES

- **FDA Status:** Laboratory Developed Test (LDT) without message
- **Validated Test Modifications:** None
  
- Perform cell counts as soon as possible since cells deteriorate with time.
- If there is a clot, perform count on available liquid and make notation in the report. Counts on partially clotted samples may be affected depending whether or not cells are trapped in the clot.
- Low power scanning should be performed on smear to evaluate cell distribution and evaluate for presence of malignant cells.
- If crystal examination is ordered, perform this test first to help estimate the dilution needed for the cell count.

### 14. LIMITATIONS OF METHOD

#### 14.1 Analytical Measurement Range

None defined

#### 14.2 Precision

Not applicable

#### 14.3 Interfering Substances

- Contamination with birefringent talcum powder may interfere with crystal analysis.
- Use of powdered EDTA or oxalate as an anticoagulant may interfere with crystal analysis.

#### 14.4 Clinical Sensitivity/Specificity/Predictive Values

None defined

### 15. SAFETY

Refer to your local and corporate safety manuals and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for detailed information on safety practices and procedures and a complete description of hazards.

### 16. RELATED DOCUMENTS

1. Laboratory Quality Control Program
2. Hematology Slide Stainer Cyto centrifuge, Aerospray® Model 7151, SGMC / WOMC Hematology SOP
3. Cytospin CSF/Body Fluid Slide Preparation, GEC Hematology SOP
4. RAL Diff-Quik Stain Kit, Hematology SOP
5. Cell Count Worksheet (AG.F12)

6. Cell Chex Control and Cell Chex Differential Control Log (AG.F87)
7. Pathologist Slide Review Request (AG.F127)

## 17. REFERENCES

Body Fluid Analysis procedure, Hematology BPT, QDHE749 v1.2  
Synovial Fluid Analysis procedure, Hematology BPT, QDHE748 v1.2

## 18. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Section	Reason	Reviser	Approval
000	11/26/13		Update owner	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	4	Add Methylene Blue diluting fluid	C Reidenauer	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	6.3	Re-format to clarify process	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	7.2	Remove model number of stainers	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	7, 8	Remove use of non-disposable hemacytometer	C Reidenauer	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	8.3	Add Methylene Blue as diluting fluid to all dilution steps	C Reidenauer	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	8.5	Add process for count <10	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	8.6	Add cholesterol crystal to step 1	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	10.6	Add specific crystals to be reported	C Reidenauer	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	16	Add forms, update SOP titles	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	19	Remove forms	L Barrett	R SanLuis
000	11/26/13	Footer	Version # leading zero's dropped due to new EDCS in use as of 10/7/13.	L Barrett	R SanLuis
1	3/12/14	8.3	Correct 1:1 dilution to 1:2. Add dilution factors	C Reidenauer	R SanLuis
2	6/17/14	1, 8.6	Specify synovial fluid testing sites	L Barrett	R SanLuis
2	6/17/14	3.1	Add instruction for sending synovial fluid from GEC to SGAH	L Barrett	R SanLuis
3	11/16/14	8.3	Remove coverslip, add zigzag counting, reformat to add dilution chart	L Barrett	R SanLuis
3	11/16/14	8.6	Add polarizing light instruction	L Barrett	R SanLuis
3	11/16/14	10.5	Remove synovial fluid under GEC instruction	L Barrett	R SanLuis
3	11/16/14	10.6	Add LIS codes	L Barrett	R SanLuis
3	11/16/14	17	Add BPT synovial fluid SOP	L Barrett	R SanLuis
3	11/16/14	19	Add polarizer information and crystal descriptions	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	Header	Add other sites	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	3.2	Edit comments for samples with clots	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	4, 6	Remove individual section labeling instructions and add general one	L Barrett	R SanLuis

Version	Date	Section	Reason	Reviser	Approval
4	3/7/17	8.4	Specify albumin added before diluted sample	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	10.5	Move patient review from section 6	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	10.7	Remove reporting intra or extracellular	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	11.1	Add ranges for synovial fluid diff	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	15	Update to new standard wording	L Barrett	R SanLuis
4	3/7/17	16	Add Fluid Keyboard SOP and Path Review form	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	Header	Update title to include method	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	1	Update order code, delete 'fluid, other', change crystal exam to SG only	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	3.2	Add comment codes & instruction for solid clot	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	4	Update automated stain and Diff-Quik info	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	6	Update product numbers & storage temp	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	6.4	Update QC review to match practice	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	8.1	Remove pale yellow as color choice	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	10.6	Add reporting section	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	11.1	Update serous fluid to match automated method, Separated chart for synovial fluid & changed TNC to WBC	L Barrett	R SanLuis
5	12/4/18	19	Add keyboard instructions, delete WAH polarizer	L Barrett	R SanLuis
6	3/17/20	Header	Changed WAH to WOMC	L Barrett	R SanLuis
6	3/17/20	4.1, 4.2	Deleted methylene blue diluting fluid	H Genser	R SanLuis
6	3/17/20	6.3	Deleted diluting fluid check	H Genser	R SanLuis
6	3/17/20	8.2	Changed diluent to 0.9% saline, added steps for undiluted sample	H Genser	R SanLuis
6	3/17/20	10.1	Added correlation check	H Genser	R SanLuis

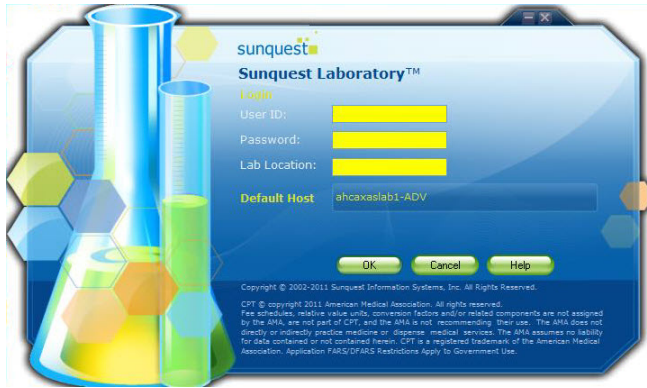
**19. ADDENDA**

- A. Fluid Keyboard: Accessing Differential Result Entry for Body Fluid
- B. Polarizing Attachment Instructions for SGMC
- C. Crystals in Synovial Fluid

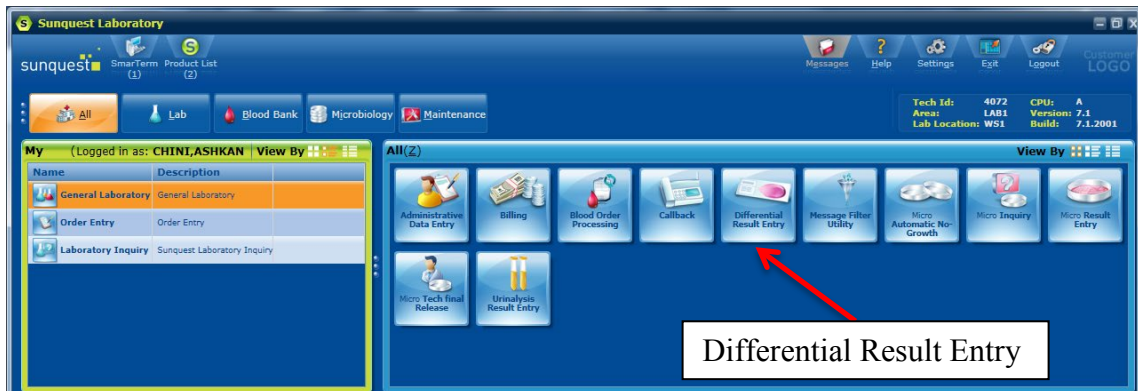
## Addenda A

### Fluid Keyboard: Accessing Differential Result Entry for Body Fluid

1. Log into the Sunquest GUI application.

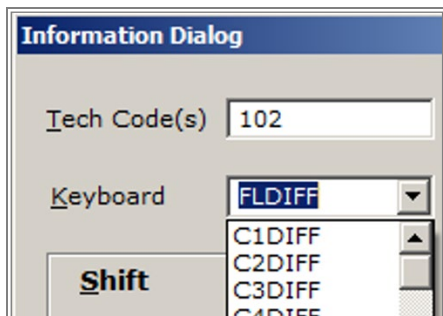


2. Click on **Differential Result Entry**.

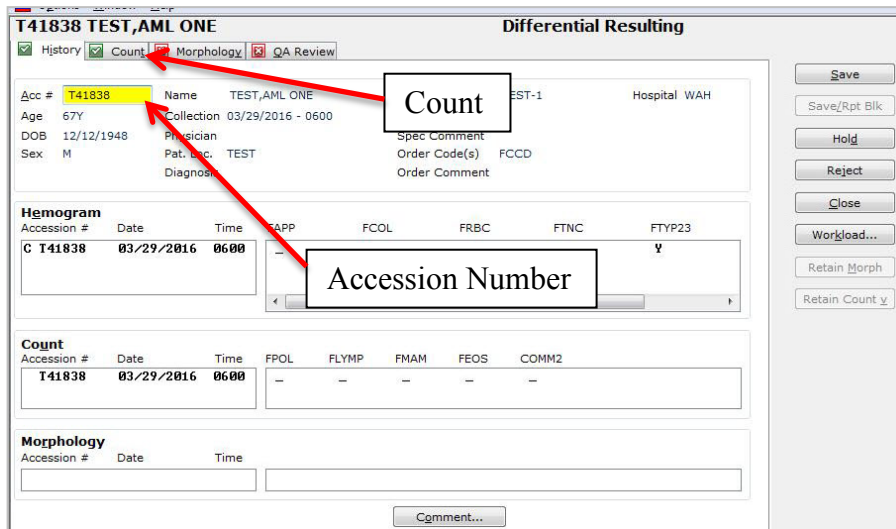


3. Under “Information Dialog” screen, click on the down arrow and select the type of fluid.

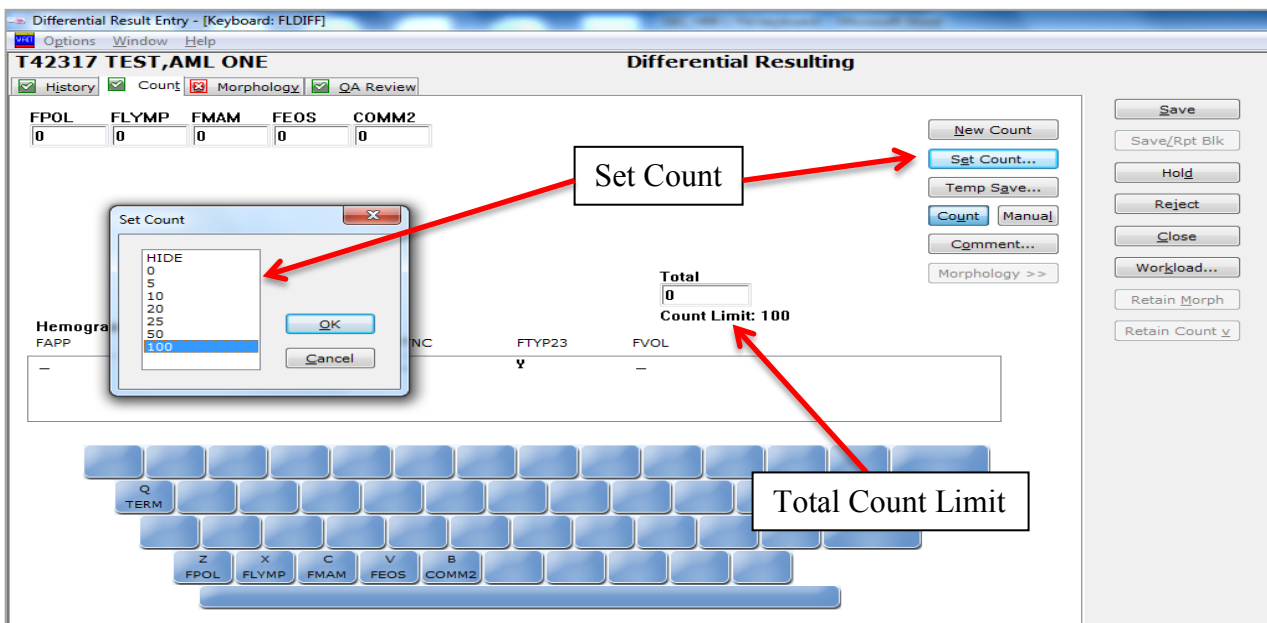
Note: Select the FLDIFF keyboard.



4. Enter the accession number and press enter. When patient information is displayed, verify it matches the specimen tested. Once patient identification is confirmed, click on **Count**.

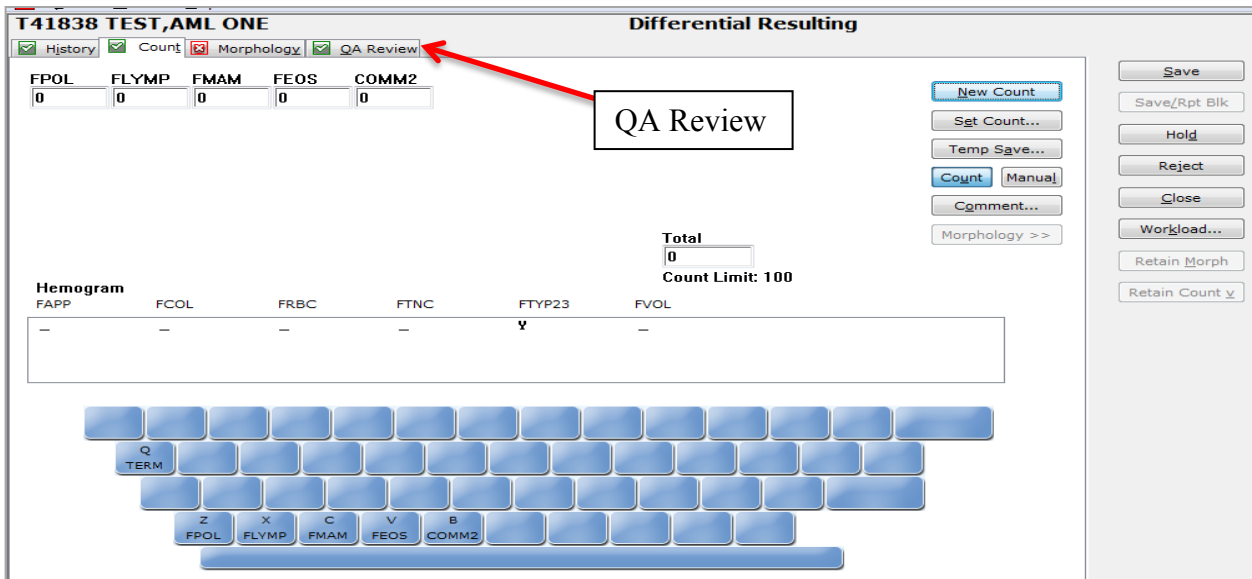


5. Examine the slide and adjust the “Total Count Limit” accordingly. To adjust the Total Count Limit, click on **Set Count** and then choose one of the options.

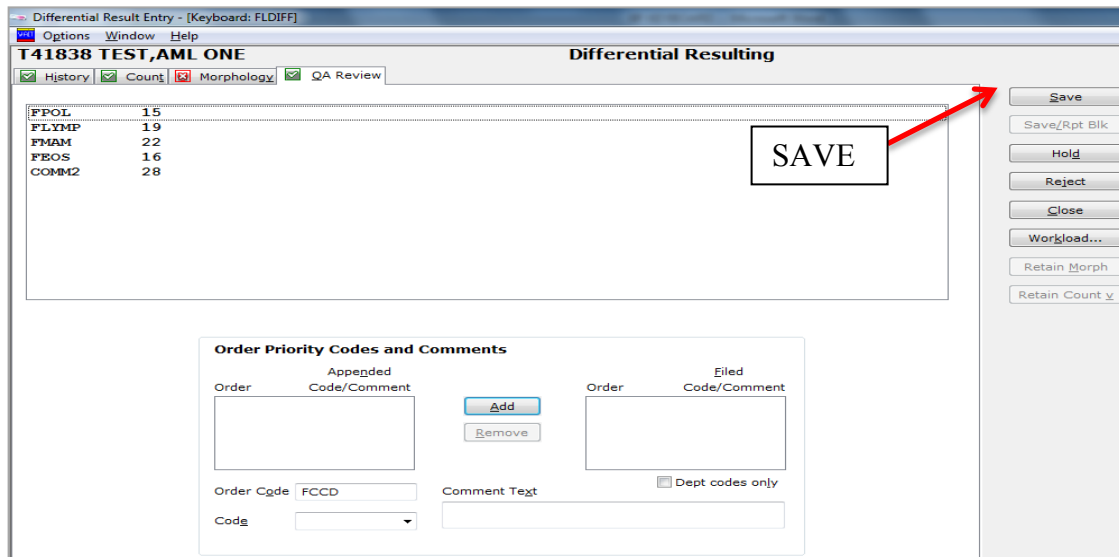


6. Enter the differential count. When finished click on **QA Review**.





7. Review the QA report, then click **SAVE**.



8. If the slide requires a second tech review, click on **HOLD**.
- a. A second tech will perform the differential using a manual cell counter or the off-mode in Sunquest and record results on the Pathologist Slide Review Request form.
  - b. The criteria specified on the Automated Stainer Differential Comparison and Stain Quality Log is used to compare results.
    - If the result comparison meets the criteria, then the original differential is reported.
    - If the differential results do NOT correlate, then supervisor/tech in charge will review the diff and decide which results to report.

9. If the slide requires a pathologist review, then check to see if there is a Cytology order.
- a. If there is a cytology order
- The slide does NOT need to be submitted to pathology for review.
  - Append English Text code **SCYT** (translates to See Cytology Report) to one of your cells counts. Choose a cell type that was observed because the English Text code will not post if you append it to a cell count with a result of 0.

*Example:*

Click in the FMAM count box and then click on the **Comment** button.

FPOL	FLYMP	FMAM	FEOS	COMM2
1	2	1	1	0

Total: 5  
Count Limit: 5

Another window opens. In the Text Code box type in **SCTY** and then click **ADD**. Text Code is translated in the box to the right. Click **OK** to save.

Acc# H2547 Test FMAM  
Date 11/15/2018 Time 1303

Text Code: [ ] Add Remove

Code	Translation
SCYT	See cytology report

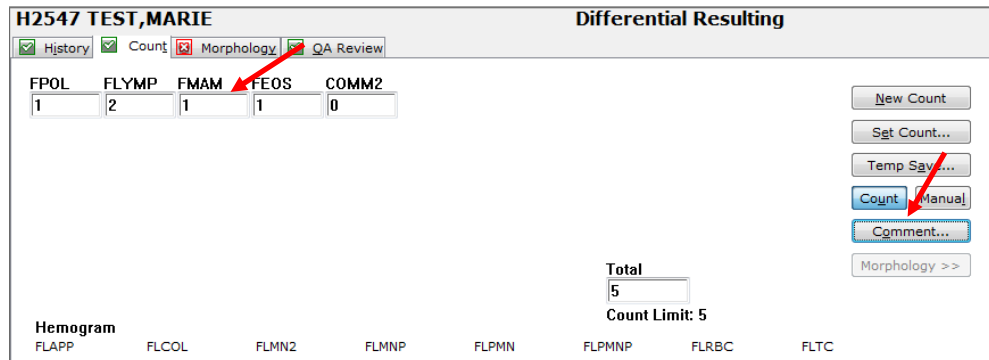
Note: The comment will append to the cell type you selected and can be seen in the QA Review tab.

b. If there is no Cytology order -

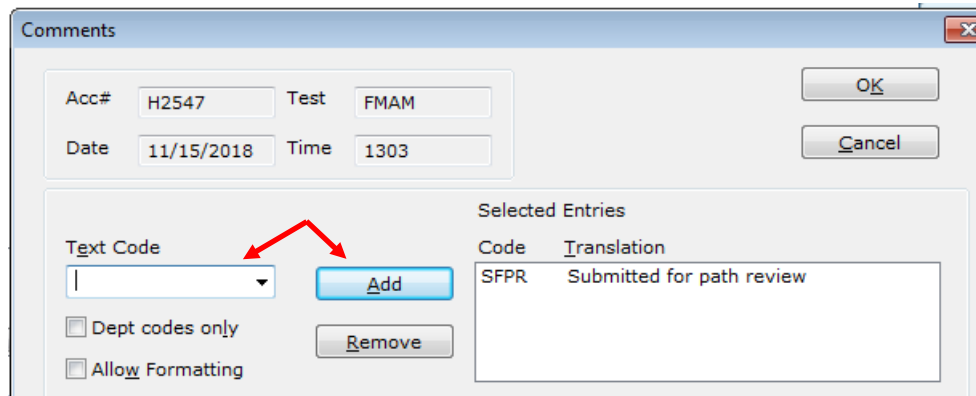
- The slide will need to be submitted to pathology for review. The next steps describe how to document sending it for review, sections 9.c and 9.d outline how to order Path Review and result it.
- Append English Text code **SFPR** (translates to Submitted for Path Review) to one of your cells counts. Choose a cell type that was observed because the English Text code will not post if you append it to a cell count with a result of 0.

*Example:*

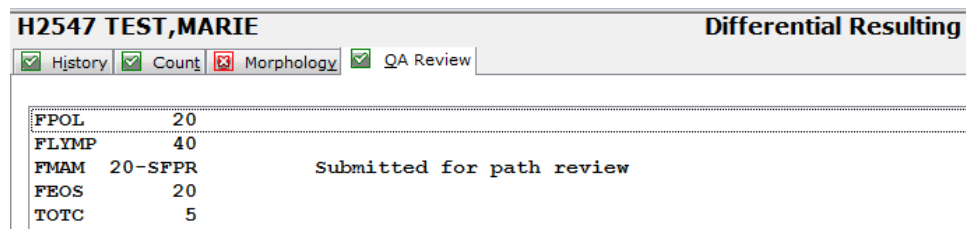
Click in the FMAM count box and then click on the **Comment** button.



Another window opens. In the Text Code box type in **SFPR** and then click **ADD**. Text Code is translated in the box to the right. Click **OK** to save.



Note: The comment will append to the cell type you selected and will be seen in the QA Review tab. *Example:*



- c. To submit slides for path review -
  - Add order code FPATH to the Accession via REI or GUI Order Entry.
  - Complete Pathologist Slide Review Request form.
  - Give slide(s) and review form to the pathologist.
- d. When the Pathologist Slide Review form and slide(s) are returned to the lab, enter results into the LIS via SmartTerm. Note: This should also include the pathologist’s comments or assessment regarding the diff count which has already been reported in SmartTerm. The original reported diff does NOT need to be corrected.

When resulting, at the Result: prompt type in **BELOW#** then press ENTER.

*Example:*

```

MANUAL RESULT ENTRY
DEVICE LOC: WAH WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL HOSP. ID: WAH
ACC NO NAME PN: TEMP-2 AGE/SEX LOC PHYSICIAN
H2547 TEST, MARIE 44Y F TEMP CACCIABEVE MD,
DOB: 01/01/1974 COLL: 11/15/2018 13:03

Enter Text For : FPR
Result : BELOW

Positive for malignant cells. Possibly lymphoma/leukemia. Flow
cytometry analysis is recommended. Findings were discussed with Dr.
Smith on 11/10/18 at 1200. Pathologist: Dr. Pathologist 11/10/18
    
```

*Example of display in Sunquest Inquiry for Fluid Path Review*

```

H2547 COLL: 11/15/2018 13:03 REC: 11/15/2018 13:04 PHYS: CACCIABEVE MD,
Req. No.:

Fluid Path Review
Fluid Path Review See below (102)
(See Below)

Positive for malignant cells. Possibly lymphoma/leukemia. Flow
cytometry analysis is recommended. Findings were discussed with Dr.
Smith on 11/10/18 at 1200. Pathologist: Dr. Pathologist 11/10/18
    
```

*Example of display in Sunquest Inquiry for manual diff with comment attached showing sent for path review*

```

Polys 20 %
Lymphs 40 %
Macrophage/Mono 20 %
Submitted for path review
Fluid, Eosinophil 20 %
Total Cell Count 5
    
```

Addendum B

**Polarizing Attachment Instructions for SGMC**

M328J/E 04.9.NF.1

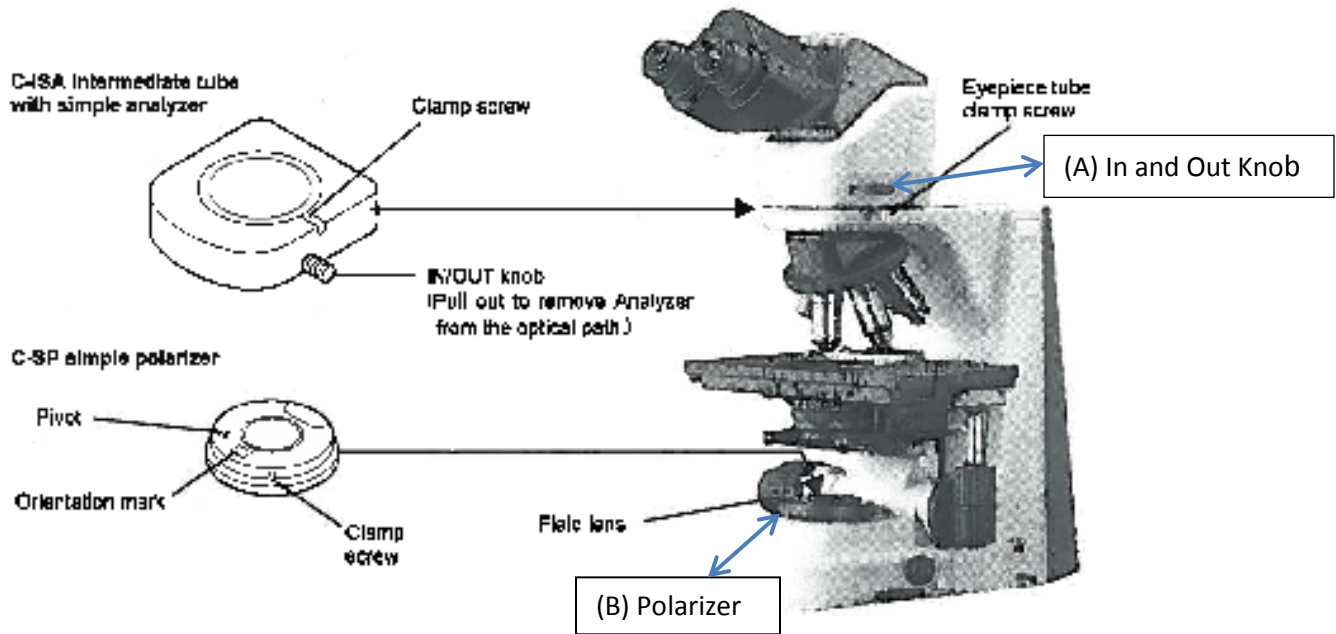


**ECLIPSE | Series Simple Polarizing Attachment Instructions**

Thank you for purchasing the Nikon product.

This manual is written for the users of the Nikon Simple Polarizing Attachment for ECLIPSE i series. To ensure correct usage read this manual together with the instruction manual supplied with the microscope.

When retardation measurement or precise polarizing microscopy is necessary, use the polarizing microscope specifically designed for that purpose.



To view crystals:

1. Push in knob as shown above in picture (A)
2. Slide the polarizer on the field lens (B)
3. Slide the silver tab on polarizer from Z' to Z'

Addendum C

**Crystals in Synovial Fluid**

**Types of Crystals Reported by Adventist Hospital Labs**

<b>CRYSTAL</b>	<b>SHAPE</b>	<b>BIREFRINGENCE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Monosodium Urate	Needle, rod-like with parallel straight edges. Usually 8-10 $\mu$ long	Strong (Neg)	Gout, intracellular crystals in acute attack
Calcium Pyrophosphate	Often rhomboid, may be rod-like, diamond or square. Usually <10 $\mu$ long	Weak (Pos)	Pseudogout or articular chondrocalcinosis, intracellular in acute attack
Cholesterol	Flat, plate-like, with notch in corner. Often >100 $\mu$ long. Occasionally needle-like	Strong (needles are positive)	Never phagocytosed. Present in chronic effusions, particularly rheumatoid arthritis.