



# Fine needle aspiration cytology

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## Summary

- FNA is a safe diagnostic procedure and significant complications are rare.
- FNA is an accurate and cost-effective method applicable to lesions that are easily palpable.
- Deep lesions can be sampled with FNA with the aid of ultrasound or CT imaging for guidance.
- Development of endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) has allowed sampling of gastrointestinal, mediastinal, and lung lesions.
- On-site assessment of FNA sample adequacy by a cytopathologist or trained biomedical scientist provides the optimal approach for obtaining adequate material for immediate investigation, for ancillary testing, and for eventual accurate diagnosis.
- FNA is not a replacement for surgical histopathology or core biopsy. Sometimes and in some conditions, cytology cannot give a definitive answer and histological assessment is required.