How to perform a fine needle aspiration

- Disinfect skin using pre-packed alcohol swabs
- Before insertion of needle wipe away any excess ultrasound jelly with tissue paper (if U/S guided)
- Perform the aspiration according to the instructions A to G

(Figure taken from Fine Needle Aspiration, (2005), 4th Edition, S. Oreell; G.F. Sterrett; and D. Whittaker; Elsevier Churchill Livingstone)

A Position needle within target tissue

B Pull plunger to apply negative pressure

C Move needle back and forth inside target
D Release negative pressure while needle remains in target tissue

E Withdraw needle

F Detach needle and draw air into syringe

G Push a drop of sample onto microscopy slide