

5

5. In a method of aspirating liquid from a vessel containing an immunobead, the method including the steps:

Step 1: providing a vacuum source, an aspiration device having an inverted bowl, and a vessel containing an immunobead,

Step 2: lowering the aspiration device into the vessel; while,

Step 3: activating the vacuum source for drawing a vacuum through the aspiration device; then

Step 4: aspirating liquid from the vessel above the immunobead by means of the aspiration device; then

Step 5: lifting and capturing the immunobead by means of the vacuum into the inverted bowl within the aspiration device; then

Step 6: aspirating liquid from the vessel below the immunobead; then

6

Step 7: deactivating the vacuum source and allowing the immunobead to drop from the aspiration device back into the vessel; and then

Step 8: raising the aspiration device out of the vessel; wherein the improvement comprises:

in said Step 5, the captured immunobead making contact with an array of protuberances arising from the inverted bowl exclusive of the vacuum port, each of the protuberances being contactable with the captured immunobead but collectively forming a hollow greater in size than the immunobead such that the immunobead cannot contact all of the protuberances simultaneously and must lack contact with at least one protuberance at any given time,

in said Step 6: aspirating liquid from the vessel including liquid which lies between the immunobead and one or more protuberances with which the immunobead is not in contact.

* * * * *

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65