

Syphilis by Direct Fluorescence Collection Instructions

Instructions for Collection ¹

1. Label the frosted edge of the smear side with the patient's name and date of birth.
2. Draw a circle 1 cm² in the center of the slide.
3. Wear gloves and take necessary precautions to avoid accidental infection
4. Remove the superficial layer of the lesion with the aid of sterile gauze.
5. Cleanse the lesion with sterile saline without preservatives. Dry the area. Wipe away any blood, which may collect.
6. Gently press the tissue surrounding the sore, until sufficient serous exudate is available for collection using a 1 mL syringe with needle removed.
7. For smear preparation:
 - Prepare smear by expelling the exudate into the circle.
 - DO NOT spread the exudate more than 1 cm² on pre-drawn circle on the slide.
 - Air dry.
8. Place the dry slide in a slide holder and then into the blue sealable portion of the biohazard bag that is provided. Place completed patient requisition in a separate pouch.
9. Send the specimen to the Central Public Health Laboratory, 81 Resources Road, Etobicoke M9P 3T1
10. Store at 2 - 8° C until ready for shipment. Avoid extreme temperatures.

TO ORDER KITS or INFORMATION: Contact OAHPP order desk, Public Health Laboratory Toronto @ 416 235-5937 or order by fax @ 416 235-5753 or your local Public Health Laboratory.

¹ Source: Health Canada – 2006 Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections-Revised edition. Available at http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti_2006/sti_intro2006-eng.php, (accessioned February 6, 2009). Section III, page 2

Kit Contents

- 1 Biohazard bag
- 2 glass slides
- 1 slide holder
- 1 PHL Laboratory Test Requisition
- Instruction form for the Collection of Material

Submit 1 slide for examination.

(The extra slide is supplied in case of breakage. Please discard if not required)

Specimens Unsuitable for Testing

- Swabs sent in charcoal or antibiotic transport medium.
- Any condition which affects the integrity of a specimen in regards to readability must be considered (e.g. gross contamination, smear too thick, presence of blood cells etc.).
- Synovial fluid is unacceptable.