

SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF BROOKLYN
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Subject: <u>WET MOUNTS</u>	No. <u>LAB23-J</u>
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PRINCIPLE

Many clinical specimens may be examined directly under the bright-field microscopy for Trichomonads, fungal elements and yeast cells. The addition of 10% KOH partially digests proteinaceous components, such as host cells, leaving fungal cell walls intact.

REAGENTS

- 10% KOH (potassium hydroxide)
- Sterile, physiologic saline

PROCEDURE/ GUIDELINES

- Direct Wet Mount:
 - Place fresh clinical material on a clean glass slide and gently cover with a coverslip. If material is too thick to read, dilute with an equal amount of sterile saline before placing on slide.

- Examine for Trichomonads (moving parasites with flagella), yeast cells and fungal elements.
- KOH Wet Mount:
 - Add material to be examined to a drop of 10% aqueous KOH on a clean glass slide and cover with a coverslip.
 - Allow to sit several minutes before examining.
 - Examine slide for yeast and fungal elements.

Note: Trichomonads will be destroyed by KOH.

Reporting:

- Report relative numbers of Trichomonads, yeast and fungal elements seen.
- If none are seen, report as “no yeast, fungal elements or protozoa seen”.

VI. REFERENCES

Finegold, S. and Baron, E., Bailey and Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology, C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Missouri, 7th Edition.

Date Reviewed	Revision Required (Circle One)		Responsible Staff Name and Title
	Yes	No	
	Yes	No	
	Yes	No	