



# HealthPartners/GHI

KOH Procedure		<b>Attachments</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Key words</b> Fungus, skin scraping	<b>Number</b> GHP-PC-CLINIC LAB- Procedures- KOH v. 11-2011	
<b>Category</b> Provision of Care	<b>Effective Date</b> May 1992	
<b>Manual</b> Clinic Laboratory Procedure Manual W@W Laboratory Procedure Manual Point-of-Care (PPM) Procedure Manual	<b>Last Review Date</b> November 2013	
<b>Issued By</b> Clinic Laboratory – Laboratory Technical Consultants	<b>Next Review Date</b> November 2014	
<b>Applicable</b> Clinic Laboratory Staff	<b>Origination Date</b> May 1992	
	<b>Retired Date</b>	
<b>Level of Complexity</b> Non-waived	<b>Contact</b> Laboratory Administration	
<b>Review Responsibility</b> Laboratory Administration	<b>Approved Date</b> May 1992	
<b>APPROVAL(S)</b> Laboratory Medical Director		

**KOH Test**  
Clinic Lab Procedure (Pages 1-2)  
Computer Test (Page 3)

## I. PURPOSE/PRINCIPLE

Demonstration of fungi in infected tissue can be accomplished by adding Potassium hydroxide to the specimen and examining under the microscope.

## II. POLICY

Laboratory Staff will follow the approved techniques outlined in this procedure.

### Specimen:

Skin: Good scraping.

Nails: Include skin under nail.

Hair: Include hair and hair bulb.

### Reagents/Materials:

20% KOH Aliquot into a smaller bottle, change monthly. Store at room temperature.  
(10% KOH ampules may be used) **These are single-use ampules.**

Glass Slides

Coverslips

## III. PROCEDURES

1. Specimen is placed on a glass slide, labeled, placed in a covered petri dish, and brought to the lab.

2. One drop of KOH is added to the specimen. Coverslip.
3. Using a tweezers to hold the slide, pass slide gently through flame 2-3 times or warm on incinerator.
4. Let slide sit for about 3 minutes.
5. Scan a minimum of 20 fields for fungi under low power. Confirm under high dry.
6. If examination is negative and specimen is thick material, let specimen sit in petri dish for 5-10 minutes, and re-examine.

**Expected results:** Negative

## **REPORTING RESULTS**

Clinic Labs: see the Computer Entry section of this procedure

Provider-Performed Microscopy:

1. enter results as part of the visit encounter in EPIC

Well@Work Clinics:

1. enter results on test log sheet
2. fax test log sheet to Central Lab for result entry into the Laboratory Computer System

## **PROCEDURE NOTES**

Care must be taken not to confuse so-called "mosaic" fungus (epithelial cell lines appearing as hyphae) and other artifacts with true fungi. True fungi hyphae will run over epithelial cells, not just along their edges.

## **REFERENCES**

Davidsohn and Henry: Clinical Diagnosis by Laboratory Methods.  
Dr. C. Soutor, GHI Inservice, July 1983.

## **AUTHOR/REVIEWER(S)**

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## **IV. DEFINITIONS**

## **V. COMPLIANCE**

Failure to comply with this policy or the procedures may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

## **VI. ATTACHMENTS**

## **VII. OTHER RESOURCES**

## **VIII. ENDORSEMENT**

Laboratory Administration

## Computer Order and Result Entry

**KOH**  
Order Code: KOH

### **ORDERING:**

After the computer has assigned an accession number in RE, you will be prompted for the following:

**CODE**  
KSOUR

**NAME**  
Source

**RESPONSE**

- Enter English text code(s) (RT-HAND!)
- You may also enter free text info if there are no codes  
(;Sore on Left Elbow )

### **RESULTING:**

**WORKSHEET:**

Function MEM Worksheet CM\_\_ (Clinic Micro)

**RESPONSE:**

Report as POS or NEG

Reviewer(s):  
LEJohnson  
GEFelland  
AKHoward