

<b>Title: Point of Care - Wet Mount for Yeast and Trichomonads</b>		
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## **TITLE: Wet Mount for Yeast, Trichomonads & Clue Cells**

**PRINCIPLE:** Yeast, Trichomonads or Clue Cells can cause Vaginitis. Microscopic examination of discharge or mucosa offers rapid information for the presence or absence of Yeast, Trichomonads or Clue Cells.

### **SPECIMEN:**

- Patient Preparation: None.
- Specimen requirement: Swab of cervix or vagina.
- Minimum Requirement: None.
- Collection: Place the vaginal or cervical swab in a sterile tube containing sufficient sterile physiologic saline to submerge the tip of the swab.
- Stability and Storage: Test immediately.
- Compromising Factors: Using a swab in bacteriologic transport media is acceptable but suboptimal for Trichomonad visualization.



All body fluids should be handled as if capable of transmitting infectious diseases. Use universal precautions when in contact with such materials. Refer to the Infection Control Policy Manual.

### **REAGENTS (SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT):**

- Glass slides
- Cover slips
- Transfer pipet
- Sterile tubes containing sterile physiologic saline (volume sufficient to submerge the tip of the swab)
- Microscope

**CALIBRATION:** None.

### **QUALITY CONTROL:**

- Staff that perform this test have been trained to recognize the microscopic morphology of Yeast, Trichomonads, and Clue Cells.

### **PROCEDURE:**

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1. Use a transfer pipet to place one (1) drop of well-mixed sample from sample tube to a glass slide. Place a cover slip over drop.
2. Examine the entire area beneath the coverslip for Yeast, Trichomonads, and Clue Cells with a microscope, alternating between 10x and 40x magnifications.

### **CALCULATIONS:**

- None.

### **REPORTING RERSULTS:**

- Report as present or absent for yeast, present or absent for Trichomonads, or present or absent for Clue Cells.
- Record results in PPM log sheet and on the patient's chart.

### **REFERENCE RANGE:**

- Absent.

### **PROCEDURE NOTES:**

- For optimal detection of trichomonads, examine the slide immediately (no longer than 15 minutes after collection), while the organisms are actively motile.
- Trichomonas vaginalis is a pear-shaped flagellate protozoan, which has a distinctive jerky motility. It has an undulating membrane extending half the length of the body.
- Personnel performing this test may seek the opinion(s) of other qualified testing personnel when encountering unusual results or when there is uncertainty about a conclusion. Repeat testing, when practical, may be used to reconcile these situations.

### **LIMITATIONS OF PROCEDURE:**

- Wet mount examination for trichomonads is 60-70% sensitive when compared to culture. It is believed to be more sensitive than those figures for symptomatic patients.
- Wet mount examination for yeast is approximately 50% sensitive when compared to culture. It is believed to be highly sensitive for symptomatic patients with a clear overgrowth of yeast. It is estimated that 50% of asymptomatic women may carry yeast in the vagina in small numbers.

## Point of Care - Wet Mount for Yeast and Trichomonads

REFERENCES

Eschenbach, D., Pollock, H.M., Schachter, J. 1983 Cumitech 17, ; Laboratory Diagnosis of Female Genital Tract Infections. American Society for Microbiology, Washington D.C.  
Family Place, Concord Hospital, HBAS

DISTRIBUTION

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DEPARTMENT/UNIT

Historical APPROVAL

POCT, Concord Hospital Laboratory

Initiated by: Suzanne Chute MT, BB (ASCP) Date: Feb. 2005

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PATHOLOGY APPROVAL

Gary York, MD Date: \_\_\_\_\_