



Mycobacteria

Synonyms

AFB, TB, Fastrack, T-spot (restricted availability see below)

Clinical Indication

Please give detailed clinical information, including date of onset/contact with suspected infection, and any current, or intended, antibiotic therapy

Part of Profile / See Also

Microscopy for acid fast bacilli. culture for Mycobacteria.

Request Form

ICE or Medway order comms request or Pathology /Microbiology hand completed request form

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Microscopy for AFB and culture during working day (Direct Microscopy will not be performed on urine or blood).

For urgent requests contact lab directly on 01268 968288

For Fastrack [qualifying criteria](#), please refer to [PF-MIC-LP-156](#)

T-spot only available routinely to certain teams: TB teams, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Gastroenterology and Occupational Health. Samples received without agreement will not be processed – refer to separate handbook page

Turnaround Time

Microscopy - Next working day

Culture – [12 weeks](#)

Fastrack – [in-house PCR testing – 24 hours from the time a positive Auramine result has been obtained \(only sputum is verified for this test\).](#)

Patient Preparation

[Inadequate specimen collection, improper specimen handling and/or transport may lead to false results.](#)

Sample Requirements

Refrigerate samples that require Microscopy and Culture if there is to be a delay in delivery to lab. Never refrigerate T-spot samples

Specimen Type

Dependent on site of suspected infection – see container guide.

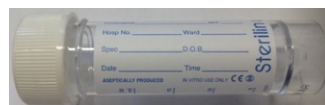
Volume

Dependant on sample type. Sputum at least 2 ml. Other samples in universal containers up to 20 ml

T-spot – See separate handbook page [PF-PTD-281](#)

Container

Sputum, Pleural Fluid, Other Fluids, Pus, Tissue: White capped sterile universal or similar - CE marked



Gastric Aspirate: White capped sterile universal - CE marked. Deliver IMMEDIATELY to Microbiology for neutralisation

Urine: Three complete early morning urine samples (EMU) taken on separate days in containers without boric acid. A midstream EMU sample [may be](#) acceptable but is not an ideal alternative.

Blood and Bone Marrow: Myco lytic bottles – available for collection from Pathology reception.

Reference Range & Units

N/A

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

All results generated by the GeneXpert for this assay are automatically interpreted by the software.

Decision Value (if applicable)

N/A

References

Test code

TBC, FAST, TSPO, **IFAS**

Lab Handling

Processed for Microscopy and culture during working day.

T-spot is a referral test to be sent by courier from Hub lab by 18:00 - working days only.