



Mycology

Synonyms

Fungal investigations, Dermatophyte investigations

Suspected fungal infections of skin, hair or nails.

Please give detailed clinical information including date of onset/contact with the suspected infection /animals, foreign travel etc

Part of Profile / See Also

Microscopy for fungal elements

Culture for significant fungi

NB: When sample submitted is insufficient for both culture and microscopy, the microscopy will take priority

Request Form

ICE or Medway order comms request or Pathology /Microbiology handwritten request form

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request during normal working hours

Turnaround Time

4 weeks

Patient Preparation

Skin: This will take place at point of care and not in the lab.

Nail: The affected nail should be cut back as far as possible through the full thickness of the nail and should include any crumbly material.

Hair: Samples from the scalp should include skin scales and several plucked hair or hair stumps. Cut hair is not suitable for direct examination as the infected area is usually close to the scalp surface.

Sample Requirements

Do not refrigerate sample. Store at room temp if delay in delivery to lab.

Specimen Type

Dependent on site of suspected infection.

Nail: Visually affected parts through full thickness.

Hair: Attempt to include plucked root, skin /hair stumps.

Skin: Scrapings from periphery of lesion

Volume

N/A

Container

Dependent on sample type. Dermapak or similar folded paper squares for skin scrapings, hair and nails.

White capped sterile universal type container or similar - CE marked, may be used for hair or nail clippings but preferably not for skin scrapings due to static within the container.

Reference Range & Units

Interferences

This procedure is limited by the quality of the sample and by provision of accurate clinical details such as clinical presentation of 'infected' site, underlying conditions, whether patient is immunosuppressed, foreign travel

and country of origin.

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

References

UK SMI: Investigation of Dermatological Specimens for Superficial Mycoses
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Test code

MYC

Lab Handling

Do not refrigerate samples