

# Acanthamoeba

## Synonyms

Acanth

## Clinical Indication

Corneal ulceration, keratitis.

## Part of Profile / See Also

**Microscopy:** Direct microscopy on [contact lens](#) fluid only

**Culture:** For the protozoan Acanthamoeba from contact lenses, contact lens fluid and corneal scrapings.

Acanthamoebae investigation is usually part of a full investigation of corneal ulcer / keratitis which may include routine bacterial culture and microscopy

## Request Form

ICE / [Medway](#) order comms request or Pathology /Microbiology request form

## Availability / Frequency of Analysis

During working day

For urgent requests please contact laboratory 01268 968285

Out of hours please contact on call Microbiology lab staff via switchboard.

NB:- Acanthamoeba samples are usually only processed urgently when accompanied by culture plates and smear for urgent microscopy for organisms

## Turnaround Time

5 days for Acanthamoebae culture.

Positive cultures will be sent to a reference lab for identification and will therefore be subject to an additional period according to TATs of the ref lab

Corneal scrape is a specialist procedure usually only carried out by the eye unit [at Southend Hospital](#).

## Patient Preparation

## Sample Requirements

Corneal scrape samples must be transported to the lab for investigation as soon as possible. During out of hours, contact switchboard who will contact the on call microbiology lab staff.

## Specimen Type

Corneal scrape, Contact lens, Contact lens fluid

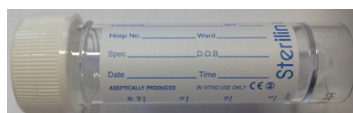
## Volume

N/A

## Container

Corneal scraping:- Directly inoculated onto the marked area on a Non - nutrient agar plate (available from Pathology reception at Southend Hospital as part of an eye unit set)

Contact lens, contact lens case or contact lens solution:- Place in a sterile container [such as sterile universal](#) - CE marked.



**Reference Range & Units**

[Redacted]

**Interferences**

**Interpretation & Clinical**

[Redacted]

**Decision Value (if applicable)**

**References**

**Test code**

CORN, CLF, CLEN (depending on sample type)

**Lab Handling**

Process as soon as possible.



9148  
Accredited to  
ISO 15189:2012