



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

OCULAR SPECIMEN COLLECTION PROTOCOL

SPECIMENS FROM EYE

Material from patients with mycotic keratitis is collected by an ophthalmologist by scraping numerous areas of ulceration and suppuration with a Kimura spatula.

Culture media should be brought to the operating room or sent to the ophthalmology practice for direct inoculation by the ophthalmologist.

Scrapings of the corneal exudates are inoculated by marking the scrapings slightly into the agar with platinum spatula in a series of "C"-shaped cuts. The "C" cuts localize the areas of inoculation and provide a crude dilution of the specimen. Growth within the areas of inoculation can be considered significant.

Media to be inoculated include the following:

1. Blood agar plate
2. Chocolate agar plate – this plate should be placed in a Ziploc pouch with a CO2 generator after inoculation
3. Sabouraud/Dextrose plate
4. Thioglycollate broth

Smears on glass slides should also be made from the corneal scrapings for Gram smear and KOH examinations.

Supplies may be obtained from the Microbiology lab by calling 791-2408.

After inoculation, cultures should be transported to the Laboratory promptly. Cultures should remain at room temperature – **DO NOT REFRIGERATE.**