

FUNGUS AND MYCOLOGY FOR DERMATOPHYTES

Collection of Specimens for Microbiology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results. Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- date of collection
- time of collection

The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

Microbiology Collection Containers:



**Fungus Scraping Kit-
For skin, hair or nails**

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Fungus/Mycology for Dermatophytes

- Skin scraping, hair, and nail clipping should be submitted wrapped in heavy black paper. Collection kits are available from the local LifeLabs Laboratory.
- Vaginal, throat, mouth and ear swabs are collected in Amies' transport media.
- The patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, specimen source and date and time of collection should be specified on the requisition and specimen container.
- Fungal cultures for dermatophytes require up to four weeks of incubation.

Nail, Skin and Hair Specimens

Store at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 72 hours of collection.

Vaginal, Throat, Mouth and Ear Swabs

Store ear swabs at 2-8°C and all other swabs at room temperature. Submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

Collection of Nail Specimen

- Cleanse the nail area with 70% alcohol to eliminate contaminating body bacteria. Allow to air dry.
- The part of the nail that is the optimal specimen will vary with the type of onychomycosis. For distal subungual infection, the healthy nail plate should be discarded. A sample from the nail bed and from material from underside the nail plate should be obtained. For proximal subungual onychomycosis, the healthy nail plate should be removed and material from the proximal nail bed obtained. For white superficial onychomycosis, material from the white area of the nail plate should be obtained.
- A scalpel blade or a small curet can be used to obtain the sample. Submit in a sterile container.

