[Insert your agency information here.]

KOH Procedure

# Introduction

The KOH (Potassium hydroxide) procedure is a method used to examine specimens for yeast. KOH serves as an enzymatic agent that breaks down debris in a specimen, such as epithelial cells and WBCs, to view yeast or pseudohyphae.



# Supplies

1. Personal protective equipment
2. Sharps container
3. Biological waste container and bag
4. Sterile microscope slides
5. Sterile pipettes
6. Glass coverslips
7. Potassium hydroxide (KOH)

# Instructions

1. Mix the specimen and saline solution gently.
2. Transfer 10µL of specimen solution to a clean, labeled microscope slide.
3. Using a clean pipette, add one drop (10µL) of 10% KOH directly to the drop of specimen on the slide.
4. Hold the slide at room temperature for 5 to 30 minutes after the addition of KOH, depending on the specimen type, to allow digestion to occur.
5. Place a coverslip over the slide.
6. Focus the slide and scan at least 10 fields using low power(10X).
7. Examine detail with higher dry power (40X).

**NOTE**: The slide is held at room temperature for 5 to 30 minutes after the addition of KOH, depending on the specimen type, to allow digestion to occur. Low/brief heat can sometimes be added to speed up the action of the KOH on the specimen.