



# 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 well.
2. Using a sterile pipette, remove one drop or 10 microliters of the specimen from the tube.
3. Place one drop (10  $\mu$ L) of the specimen on a clean microscope slide with the patient's identification number.
4. Without touching the specimen, add one drop (10  $\mu$ l) of 10% Potassium hydroxide (KOH) directly to the drop of specimen on the slide.
5. Place a coverslip on the drops on the slide.
6. Place the slide on a brightfield microscope, focus using low power (10X), and scan at least 10 fields using high dry power (40X).
7. Examine for budding yeast or yeast with pseudohyphae.
8. Record results based on your laboratory's criteria.

