

# KOH Procedure

## Introduction

The KOH (potassium hydroxide) procedure is used to diagnose yeast in fungal infections. KOH is an enzymatic agent that breaks down debris in a specimen, such as epithelial cells and white blood cells, and allows you to view yeast or pseudohyphae.

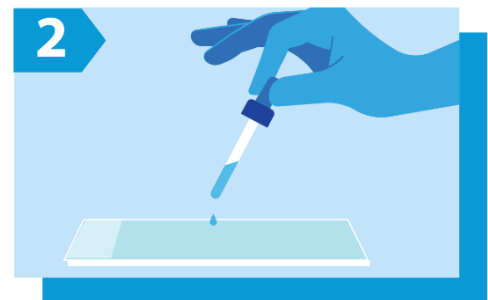
## Supplies

- Personal protective equipment
- Sharps container
- Biological waste container and bag
- Sterile microscope slides
- Sterile pipettes
- Glass coverslips
- KOH



## Instructions

1. Mix the specimen and saline solution gently.
2. Transfer 10 $\mu$ L of the specimen solution to a clean, labeled microscope slide.
3. Using a clean pipette, add one drop (10 $\mu$ L) of 10% KOH directly to the drop of specimen on the slide.

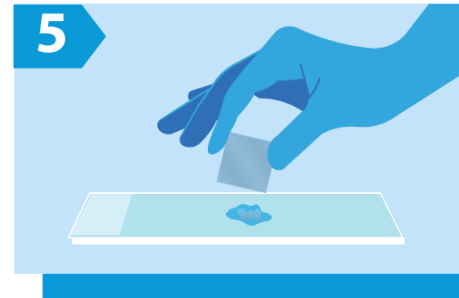


4. Keep the slide at room temperature for 5 to 30 minutes after the addition of KOH, depending on the specimen type, to allow digestion to occur.

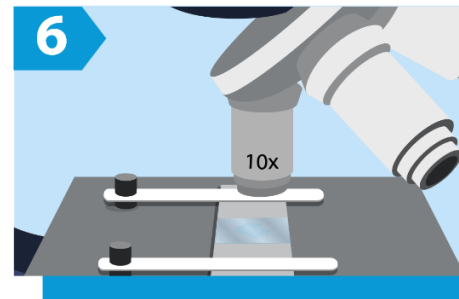
**Note:** Low/brief heat can sometimes be added to speed up the action of the KOH on the specimen.



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).

