# 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.

## Series of icons representing: personal protective equipment, sharps container, biological waste container and bag, sterile microscope slides, sterile pipettes, glass coverslips, container of potassium hydroxide (KOH)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 10µL of the 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. 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.

1. Place a coverslip over the slide.
2. Focus the slide and scan at least 10 fields using low power (10X).
3. Examine detail with higher dry power (40X).