

Routine Microscopy

India Ink

In this training video, you will learn the proper technique for performing an India ink stain. For this procedure, you will need the following materials and equipment: personal protective equipment, a sharps container, a biological waste container and bag, sterile microscope slides, sterile pipettes, glass coverslips, a pencil or slide marker, and India ink. This test is performed in a biological safety cabinet.

The specimen we are using in this video is cerebrospinal fluid or CSF that has been centrifuged. A drop or ten microliters of spinal fluid or a specimen is placed on a sterile labeled microscope slide. A drop or ten microliters of India ink is then added to the specimen on the slide. A cover slip is carefully placed on top of the solution on the slide, taking caution to avoid air bubbles. If the microscope slide is too thick, saline may be added on the edge of a cover slip. A positive result occurs when a well-defined clear zone around the capsule appears.