Leishmania Diagnostics Laboratory
Diagnostics and Countermeasures Branch
Center of Infectious Disease Research
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone (240)595-7353 – Fax (301) 319-9997

Needle aspirates Procedures

1. Criteria for needle aspirate

a. Any patient who has had a non-healing lesion (does not have to be an open ulcer) for greater than 3 to 4 weeks should be suspected of having leishmaniasis.

b. Please consult with the WRAIR *Leishmania* Diagnostics Laboratory (LDL) clinical consultant (usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@health.mil) before performing the procedure.

2. Needle Aspirate Procedure

a. Obtain needle aspirate in accordance with your standard medical procedures.

b. For culture, under aseptic conditions, put one-half (1/2) of aspirate volume into LDL provided transport culture media (refer to Sections 4.c. and 6. below). Keep at culture at ambient (room) temperature; ship specimens by priority overnight, express courier for arrival on a weekday within 24 hours of collection of specimen (refer to # 4. a.-d. below).

> **Note:** Please request media from the LDL prior to performing the BM procedure, see Section 4 for contact information; Section 6 to request a Specimen Collection Kit.

c. For *Leishmania* PCR, place the remainder of aspirate volume in a leak proof screw cap vial prefilled with 50ul of Alcohol (70-100% Ethanol, Methanol or Isopropanol).

3. Submission of specimens

a. Send the aspirate culture material, and vials with aspirate material in alcohol for *Leishmania* PCR directly to LDL at ambient temperature as directed in # 4.a-d.

b. Label the specimen legibly with the following information to prevent delay in testing:

- Patient name

- Unique identification number
- Date of birth; or barcode
- Date of collection/draw date

c. Wrap the primary specimen container in absorbent packing material.

d. Place the specimen tube in secondary leak-proof packaging.

e. Place the secondary package in an outer container approved for shipment of UN3373 Category Biological Substance Category B diagnostics specimens.

f. Include the WRAIR LDL test request form (CONUS or OCONUS) with patient's name, date of birth, brief clinical history, and travel history; specimen collection date; and test(s) requested.

g. Label the shipping container "Clinical Specimen" on the outside of the package.

h. Include the following information: submitter's name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

i. Ship at ambient temperature by overnight carrier

4. Shipment of Specimens

a. Send specimens and copies of the Leishmaniasis Test Request Form via Federal Express courier to the address below. Label as UN3373 Biological Category B diagnostic specimens.

b. POC: Laboratory Director, LDL at COM: 240-595-7353 (24 hours Emergency Number); Office: 301-319-2297; Cell: 240-406-6510; email: usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@health.mil

c. Alternate POC: Associate Laboratory Director, LDL at cell: 301-661-2667, Office: 301-319-3512; email: usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@health.mil

d. Shipping Address

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ATTN: *Leishmania* Diagnostics Laboratory (LDL)
9100 Brookville Road, Building 508, Silver Spring, MD 20910

5. Turn Around Time (TAT)

TAT for a histopath smear (Giemsa) is 24 hours; TAT for RT-PCR, and rK39 report is 24-48 hours, unless specimens are received on Friday. Culture results with speciation by Acetate Electrophoresis (CAE) assay may take up to 28 days for culture; 2 days for CAE. The Associate Laboratory Director will provide preliminary verbal reports to the Provider prior to issuance of a final report.

6. Request a Specimen Collection Kit.

Providers may request shipment of a LDL Specimen Collection Kit containing LDL culture media, slides, alcohol pre-filled vials for collection of dermal scrapings, aspirate, and/or biopsy material from LDL. POC is the LDL Associate Laboratory Director as listed in #4.c. above. Request kits with sufficient lead time prior to procedure(s) for LDL to priority express ship the kit to your facility.