

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

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

- 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

**Diagnostics and Countermeasures Branch
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**ATTN: Leishmania Diagnostics Laboratory (LDL)
508 Research Drive, 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.