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Section: Mycology Bench Manual	Subject Title: India Ink	
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INDIA INK

Purpose

The procedure is applicable only to suspected positive Cryptococcal cultures.

Procedure

1. For suspected Cryptococcal cultures, make a wet preparation using saline on a clean glass slide, then add a small drop of India Ink and mix.
2. Apply a large coverslip ((22 x 40 mm) over the mixture and press it gently to obtain a thin mount.
3. If India Ink is too thick (dark), dilute it by 50% with saline.
4. Allow the preparation to stand for few minutes to settle.
5. Scan under low power in reduced light. Switch to high power if necessary.

Interpretation

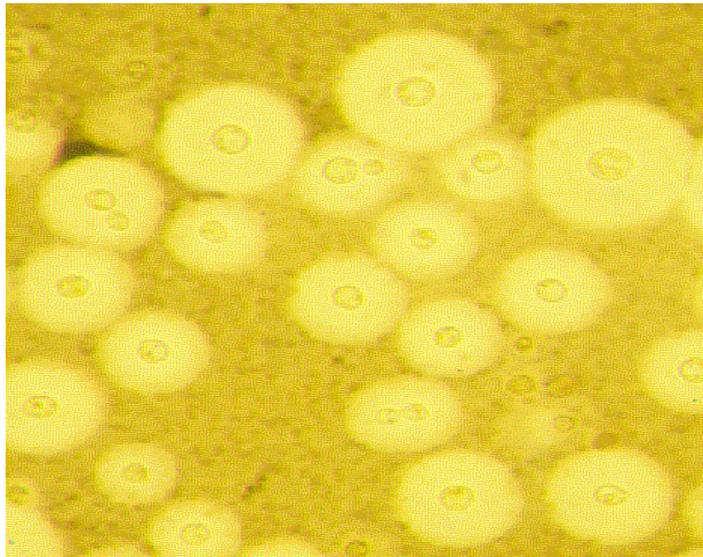
The mucoid capsule appears as a clear halo that surrounds the yeast cell or lies between the cell wall and the surrounding black mass of India Ink particles. Capsules may be broad or narrow. The yeast cells may be round, oval or elongate. Buds may be absent, single or rarely multiple and may be detached from the mother cell but enclosed in a common capsule attached.

Reference

Murray PA, et al. Manual of Clinical Microbiology 7th ed., 1999, ASM Press.

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India Ink positive for Cryptococcus



Artefacts produced by reaction of India Ink (False Positive)

