Vaginal and Urethral Swabs

**PRINCIPLE**

*Trichomonas vaginalis* can be detected in wet preparations of vaginal and urethral discharges. *T. vaginalis* has an undulating membrane and a characteristic jerky motility.

**SPECIMENS**

- swab from cervix,
- vaginal prostatic
- urethral secretions.
  If examination is to be delayed, smears should be submitted to the laboratory for staining.

**PROCEDURE**

*This is considered to be a non-routine procedure therefore it should only be performed by experienced personnel.*

1) Dilute the sample with a drop of saline and place on a microscope slide.

2) Examine under low power and low intensity light for the presence of jerky motility.

**QUALITY CONTROL**

- Ensure that the microscope has been calibrated in the last year and that the results of the calibration are displayed on the microscope base.
- Haematoxylin staining can be used to confirm the diagnosis
- See QC comments associated with haematoxylin staining.

**REPORT**

The presence of *Trichomonas*

**AUTHOR**

Ian Crandall
REFERENCES


Honigberg, B.M. Trichomonads Parasitic in Humans Springer-Verlag, New York 1989