

MSH/TML Shared Microbiology Service Policy & Procedure Manual	<b>Policy # MI\PAR\06\04\v01</b>	Page 1 of 2
Section: <b>Parasitology Manual</b>	Subject Title: <b>Collection and Laboratory Procedures for Specimens Other Than Stool or Blood</b>	
Issued by: <b>LABORATORY MANAGER</b>	Original Date: March 13, 2000	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date:	

## 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

MSH/TML Shared Microbiology Service Policy & Procedure Manual	<b>Policy # MI\PAR\06\04\v01</b>	Page 2 of 2
<b>Parasitology Manual</b>		

## REFERENCES

Gillespie, S.H. and Hawkey, P.M. Medical Parasitology: A Practical Approach. IRL Press New York 1994 pp137-150

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