

## **Needle aspirates Procedures**

### **1. Criteria for needle aspirate**

- Any patient who has had a non-healing lesion (does not have to be an open ulcer) for greater than 3 to 4 weeks needs to be suspected of having leishmaniasis.
- Please consult with LDL clinical consultant ([usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@mail.mil)) before performing the procedure.

### **2. Needle aspirate procedure**

- Obtain needle aspirate in accordance with your standard medical procedures.
- After the aspirate is obtained, discharge half into the leishmanial culture medium obtained from LDL.
- Place the remainder in a leak proof screw cap vial with alcohol (Ethanol, Isopropanol) for *Leishmania* PCR.

### **3. Submission of specimens**

The specimen should be sent directly (at room temperature) to the WRAIR *Leishmania* Diagnostics Laboratory (LDL)

- Label the specimen tube with the patient ID and seal with waterproof tape.
- Wrap the tube in absorbent packing material.
- Place the specimen tube in secondary packaging.
- Place the secondary package in the outer packaging (i.e., the shipping container).
- Include the test request form (CONUS or OCONUS) with patient's name, age, brief clinical history, and travel history; specimen collection date; and test(s) requested.
- Label the shipping container "Clinical Specimen" on the outside of the package.

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

- Include the following information: submitter's name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.
- Ship by overnight carrier (room temperature).

**4. Forwarding of samples**

Specimens and copies of the Leishmaniasis Test Request should be shipped via Express courier to the address below. The container should be labeled as Category B diagnostic specimens. POC is:

- Laboratory Director, LDL at COM: 240-595-7353 (24 hour Emergency Number); Office: 301-319-2297; Cell: 240-406-6510; email: [usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@mail.mil)
- Alternate POC: Associate Laboratory Director, LDL at cell: 301-661-2667, Office: 301-319-3512; email: [usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.leishmania-diagnostic@mail.mil)

**SHIPPING ADDRESS:**

Leishmania Diagnostics Laboratory  
Diagnostics and Countermeasures Branch  
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research  
ATTN: Leishmania Diagnostics Laboratory (LDL)  
9100 Brookville Road, Building 508, Silver Spring, MD 20910