

## **Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Scraping Procedures**

### **1. Criteria for scraping**

- 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.

### **2. Scraping procedure**

- Clean area with soap and sterile water or betadine then wash off with alcohol pads, blot with gauze and allow to dry.
- Debride any exudate, remove part of eschar/crust from an ulcerative lesion so a clean ulcer base is sampled.
- Anesthetize with lidocaine 1% or 2% with epinephrine 1:100,000 (unless the epinephrine is contraindicated due to anatomic site).
- Two tissue smears are performed by horizontally scraping (lightly enough to elicit an exudate, but not vigorously enough to cause much bleeding) the base of the ulcer with a sterile scalpel blade. The dermal tissue is then thinly applied in a circular fashion to a dime sized area in the center of the slide. Minimize blood on the slide.
- Material from the scrapings (and even the overlying crusted debris) should be inserted into a small leakproof vial of 70-100% ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, or methanol for PCR analysis. Maintain vial at room temperature.
- Dermal scrapings can also be subjected to culture by placing them in RPMI, PBS or LDL culture media.

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

- The smears and vials with tissue in alcohol for *Leishmania* PCR or in media for culture should be sent directly to the WRAIR *Leishmania* Diagnostic Laboratory (LDL).
- Label the specimen tube with the patient ID and seal with waterproof tape. If slides from multiple lesion sites are submitted, a designation as to which anatomic site such as A, B etc.
  - Wrap the tube in absorbent packing material.
  - Place the specimen tube in secondary packaging.

*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

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

**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:**

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Walter Reed Army Institute of Research  
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