

## **Sera Procedures**

### **1. Criteria for sera collection**

- Any individual presenting with these symptoms: fever, weight loss (cachexia; wasting) and/or hepatosplenomegaly (usually, the spleen is more prominent than the liver), who lived and/or travelled to *Leishmania* endemic region is suspected to have Visceral leishmaniasis (VL). Sera from such individuals can be subjected to antibody testing using the Kalazar Detect™ Rapid Test for Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL).

### **2. Sera procedure**

**Note:** LDL recommends the use of **serum separator collection tubes** (SSTs) for the serological test based on rK39. **Red top tubes** can also be used as alternative if SST are not available.

- After blood collection, invert the tube gently 5 times. Further inversion may cause alterations in specimen integrity.
- Allow the blood to clot in an upright position for at least 30 minutes, but not longer than 2 hours before centrifugation.
- Spin the tubes as per manufacture guidelines.
- Transfer the specimen sera to a secondary tube, indicate that the specimen is serum on the plastic screw-cap vial for transport and on the corresponding test request form.

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

The sera should be sent directly to the WRAIR *Leishmania* Diagnostic Laboratory (LDL), in a cold box with ice packs.

- 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).

*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 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 on ice packs 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:**

*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