



Eye

Collection Procedures

If inoculating the sample immediately at the time of collection, please call the laboratory prior to collection to obtain appropriate media.

Cleanse the skin around the eye with a mild antiseptic.

- Purulent conjunctivitis:
 1. Collect purulent material with a sterile culture swab.
 2. Place the culture swab into transport media and send to the laboratory at room temperature.
- Corneal infections:
 1. Swab the conjunctiva as described above.
 2. The physician will have collected multiple corneal scrapings and may inoculate directly onto agar media. (For bacterial culture: inoculate chocolate and blood agar. For fungal culture: inoculate inhibitory mold and potato flake agar.)
 3. Send specimens to the laboratory at room temperature as soon as possible.
- Intraocular fluid:
 1. The physician will have collected fluid by surgical needle aspiration.
 2. Transport to the laboratory at room temperature as soon as possible.