



## **Abscess**

### Collection Procedure

1. Decontaminate the surface with 70 percent alcohol (ALC) and 1-2 percent tincture of iodine (TIO).
2. Collect purulent material aseptically from an undrained abscess using a sterile needle and syringe.
3. Open miliary abscesses with a sterile scalpel and collect the express material with a sterile needle and syringe.
4. Expel air from the syringe, remove the needle, and transfer 5-10 mL of the aspirated material to a transport container.
5. Transport immediately to the laboratory.

Note: Swabs are a poor collection method for abscess specimens. Swabs are not acceptable for mycobacterial cultures. Swabs are acceptable for fungal cultures but are sub-optimal for recovery of fungi.