



## Obtaining eye specimens for microbiological investigation

To aid in the production of a rapid service we have developed the following user protocol with our colleagues at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.

### User Protocol for obtaining specimens for detection by molecular amplification:

Use a labelled Universal container, a bijou bottle, a ziploc poly bag, AND a request form.

- Complete a patient request form (attached below) with FULL history and details of what you require e.g. “3 weeks of keratitis, clinically *Acanthamoeba*, please exclude *Acanthamoeba*, fungus, bacteria, Herpes Simplex and *Mycobacteria*”.

### Corneal specimens:

- Use a cotton swab with a plastic shaft and firmly swab the ulcer and epithelium to remove cells.
- Place the swab in a bijou bottle and **avoid contaminating the shaft**.
- Cut the shaft flush to top of bottle with sterile scissors and screw lid onto the bijou bottle.
- If the cornea is very thin it may be safer to use a Bard Parker D15 blade to take the specimen and transfer the cells to a plastic shaft cotton swab (**without contaminating the shaft**) and place this in the bijou bottle as above.
- Place the bijou bottle into a labelled Universal container and pack the container with tissue paper (to stop the vial rattling around resulting in loss of tissue from the swab).
- Put into the poly bag with the **completed request form** (<http://www.micropathology.com/customer-downloads-forms.php>).

### Aqueous specimens:

- Use a 1ml syringe with a 30 g needle. *Micropathology* would like as much as possible. The average AC volume is only 175 µl try to send 100 µl or more.
- After removing from the eye withdraw the plunger to draw the aqueous into the syringe from the needle before removing needle and screwing a stopper onto the end.
- Put sellotape around the plunger to stop it emptying.
- Place into the poly path bag with a **completed request form** (<http://www.micropathology.com/customer-downloads-forms.php>).

## Turnaround times

Turnaround times are stated in the user manual

(<http://www.micropathology.com/customer-downloads-handbook.php>) with results usually available in practice much sooner than the given time frame. Where there is a delay we are usually confirming a result and addressing clinical data given with the specimen. Results are given out by e-fax or email as interim or final reports. We are also able to give results on request by phone.



# Micropathology Ltd

University of Warwick Science Park, Barclays Venture Centre,  
Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry CV4 7EZ

Tel 24hrs: +44 (0) 24 - 76 - 323222

Fax / Tel : +44 (0) 24 - 76 - 323333

## RAPID DIAGNOSIS OF EYE SAMPLES - Molecular testing (microbial DNA PCR identification)

### Patient details OR Sticker:

Surname:

Forename(s):

DoB: (DD/MM/YYYY)

Gender: M / F / U

Hospital No:

### Laboratory name and address for results:

Service & clinic code:

Consultant:

Requesting doctor:

Doctor phone/email:

Fax results to:

Sample type: e.g. Corneal Swab, Aqueous Tap

Date/Time taken:

### Clinical details:

Site involved:

Date of onset of symptoms:

Results of previous tests:

Suspected organism(s):

### Tests requested:

Bacteria

Acanthamoeba

Fungi

HSV

VZV

CMV

Please supply the contact details of your Finance department for invoicing.