

USER INFORMATION
PCR Service for Acanthamoeba DNA Detection
Scottish Microbiology Reference Laboratories, Glasgow

- Store the transportation tubes at room temperature - if you require a new batch of tubes, please contact the laboratory on 0141 242 9631 at least one week prior to sampling to allow sufficient time for tubes to be packaged and transported.
- The tubes contain a solution which is harmful if swallowed or inhaled, and is a serious irritant of eyes and skin therefore wear appropriate PPE.
- Do not use the solution after the expiry date (stated on the adhesive label).

Sample Processing

- Please note, the optimal sample type is corneal tissue (obtained via scraping or from a biopsy). On occasions where it is not possible to obtain corneal tissue, other sample types may be accepted (contact lens fluid, contact lens, swab) but please be mindful that testing samples which are not optimal may result in false negative laboratory findings.
- A green (21G) needle is used to remove the epithelium at the site of clinical pathology.
- **It is extremely important to obtain as much epithelium as possible** which is considered beneficial as this reduces the infection load - use two to three fresh needles to obtain further epithelium.
- Swirl the green needle in the solution ensuring the tissue is deposited in the solution then discard the needle. **As the solution is harmful/serious irritant, DO NOT put the needle near the patient's eye once it has been in contact with the solution.** Discard the needle and use a fresh one if further sampling is required. Do not send needles or scalpel blades.
- Attach a label to the tube (supplied by the Scottish Microbiology Reference Laboratories, Glasgow) after sampling **stating the patient's name and date of birth.**

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- If contact lens, contact lens fluids or swabs are sent for testing, these do not need to be transported in the solution. Only tissue should be placed into the solution.

***Important* The Scottish Microbiology Reference Laboratories, Glasgow provides 250ul of solution - this is to allow sufficient sample volume to perform our tests. Please do not remove any of the solution.**

- Tubes with samples and completed request forms should be sent following local transport procedures to:
- Scottish Microbiology Reference Laboratories, Glasgow
Scottish Parasite Diagnostic and Reference Section
Level 5, New Lister Building
Glasgow Royal Infirmary
Alexandra Parade, Glasgow G31 2ER

Reporting of Results -Results will be reported as either;

- **Acanthamoeba spp. DNA NOT detected by PCR**
- **Acanthamoeba spp. DNA detected by PCR**

If appropriate, the following additional comment code will be included;

Acanthamoeba PCR assay performed twice. No amplification of the internal control. Suggest repeat. This means that either a) there is insufficient tissue or b) inhibitors are present which prevent amplification of the DNA. A repeat sample should be provided to confirm that a negative finding is genuine.