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Director Approval _____ Date _____

UCSF Medical Center Clinical Laboratories	Point of Care Testing
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DIRECT SALINE WET MOUNTS

PRINCIPLE:

Trichomonas vaginalis infections are primarily diagnosed by detecting live motile flagellates from direct saline mounts. Microscope slides made from patient specimens can be examined under low and high power for the presence of actively moving organisms.

SCOPE:

The procedure is performed in the Hospital and Ambulatory settings by Medical Doctors and Nurse Practitioners who have been trained and maintain annual competency in this procedure.

PERSONNEL:

- Licensed Medical Doctors
- Licensed Nurse Practitioners

REAGENTS AND EQUIPMENT:

- A. Normal Saline
- B. Glass slides
- C. Cover slips
- D. Pipettes
- E. Gloves
- F. Microscopes

SPECIMEN:

Specimens not tested immediately (by the person collecting the specimen) are labeled with two forms of patient identification.

- A. Vaginal discharge
- B. Urethral discharge
- C. Penile discharge
- D. Urethral-mucosa scrapings
- E. First-voided urine with or without prostatic massage

QUALITY CONTROL:

Check the saline. It should be clear with no visible signs of contamination.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Apply the patient's sample to a small area on a clean microscope slide.
- B. Immediately before the specimen dries, add 1 or 2 drops of saline with a pipette. Mix with pipette tip.
- C. Cover the specimen with a cover slip.
- D. Examine the specimen with the low power objective (10x) and low light.
- E. Examine the entire cover slip for motile flagellates. Suspicious objects can be examined with the high power (40x) objective.
- F. The organism is usually slightly larger than a PMIN, and you should see flagella movement.

REPORTING RESULTS:

- A. If motile flagellates (axostyle and undulating membrane) are seen, then report their presence for the patient record along with data/time and name of person performing test.
- B. If motile flagellates are not seen, then report their absence, in the patient record along with data/time and name of person performing test.
- C. Report any yeast if seen.

PROCEDURE NOTES:

- A. It is very important that specimens are tested immediately.

LIMITATIONS:

- A. If the specimen is left at room temperature or held at refrigerator temperature for > 1 hour, the organisms will round up, lose their motility, and eventually die.

REFERENCES:

Garcia, L.S., and D.A. Bruckner. 1988. *Diagnostic Medical Parasitology*. Elsevier, New York.