Bacteria Identification Guide

Bacteria can be difficult to differentiate from amorphous and crystalline debris. When the bacteria result is “suspect presence,” the report indicates that further differentiation is recommended. When crystalline debris is detected, a note accompanies the patient results.

In cases where images do not show clear evidence of bacteriuria, it may be necessary to perform a dry-slide sediment cytology (“dry prep”). A dry prep will help differentiate bacteria from debris or crystalline material and is more effective than wet microscopic preparation for identifying bacteria.¹,² To determine the next step, review the patient images and follow the chart below.

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¹You may suspect bacteriuria if the patient has clinical signs, history of urinary tract infection, or other supporting factors.

²A culture with no bacterial growth could occur due to the presence of nonviable bacteria detected by the SediVue Dx.

References:
How to perform a dry prep

Performing a dry prep is an extremely cost-effective means of confirming the presence or absence of bacteria, of differentiating between cocci and short rods, and for characterizing various cellular elements in the urine sample.

1. Label your slides appropriately.
2. Fill a centrifuge tube with well-mixed, fresh urine taken from the bottom of the sample tube.
3. Centrifuge the sample (and a balance tube) on the Urine setting (or 400 g).
   Note: If your centrifuge does not have a Urine setting, refer to its operator’s manual for centrifugation settings and times.
4. After centrifugation, a concentrated pellet of formed elements should be visible at the bottom of the tube. Gently aspirate the supernatant down to the pellet, leaving an extremely small amount of urine in which to resuspend the pellet.
   Note: If the sample is extremely hypocellular, it may be very difficult to see the pellet.
5. Lightly flick the bottom of the tube multiple times with your finger to gently resuspend the formed elements.
6. Using a new pipette, dispense a drop of sample on a glass slide, similar to preparing a blood film.
7. Place a clean glass spreader slide on your labeled slide, at approximately 30°–40°, in front of the drop of urine.
8. Back the spreader slide into the drop allowing the material to spread along the edge of the spreader slide.
9. Move the spreader slide toward the end of the specimen slide, keeping the two in contact with each other.
10. In the middle of the slide, abruptly stop spreading the urine sample and lift the spreader slide straight up to form a line of material.
11. Air dry thoroughly and then stain the slide using your routine hematology/cytology stain (e.g., Diff-Quik*).
12. Review microscopically.

Have questions?
Visit idexxlearningcenter.com/dryprep to view a short video or call IDEXX Customer and Technical Support:
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