

INDIA INK

Catalog #: 300125, 100114

USE

India Ink is intended for use in the demonstration of capsules of *Cryptococcus neoformans* in wet mount procedures.

SUMMARY AND PRINCIPLES

India Ink wet mounts are used for the visualization of encapsulated microorganisms, especially *Cryptococcus neoformans*. India Ink is added to the suspension on a glass slide and observed under a microscope. Organisms that produce capsules displace the background material of black carbon particles (India Ink) and appear as clear halos around the microorganism.

ACTIVE INGREDIENT

Ink (Higgins or Pelikan)

PRECAUTIONS

This kit is for IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC USE only. Precautions should be taken against the dangers of microbiological hazards. Specimens, containers, and controls should be sterilized after use. Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves, and eye/face protection.

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

This product should be stored at room temperature 15 - 30°C and remain in the original packaging until needed.

EVIDENCE OF DETERIORATION

This product should not be used if the expiration date has passed. If any deficiencies are observed, notify the manufacturer.

OTHER MATERIAL REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

The usual microbiological equipment such as slides, coverslips, microscope, biohazard bags, etc. are needed for procedures involving the use of this product.

PROCEDURE

1. Place one drop of each specimen onto a glass slide. If testing a culture, add one drop of saline to the slide and add a very small amount of growth and mix well.
2. Add one drop of India Ink to specimen, mix well.
3. Place a cover slip over specimen.
4. Examine at X100 to X1000 with microscope. Observe for clear halos which stand out against the black background (Positive). If there are no capsules present, no halos will be observed (Negative).

LIMITATION OF THE PROCEDURES

Specimen samples may contain multiple artifacts, such as erythrocytes, leukocytes, talc particles from gloves, and bubbles may displace the ink, mimicking yeast cells. These artifacts make it necessary to examine the wet mount carefully to distinguish properties consistent with the organisms: rounded shapes with buds of various sizes and double-contoured cell walls. Interpretation can also be hindered if the suspension is too thick, blocking the transmission of light completely.

REFERENCES

1. Murray, P.R. et al. 1995. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 6th ed. ASM. Washington, DC.