

Category: Malaria OPD
Title: Procedures for the collection of peripheral blood smear for the diagnosis of malaria.
SOP No.: 02/03
Date first effective: 01st January 2025
Review date 31st December 2025
Department of Clinical Pharmacology, 1st Floor, New MS Building,
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai 400012

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Title: The collection of peripheral blood smear for the diagnosis of malaria in the Malaria OPD.

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to outline procedures for collection of peripheral blood smear for diagnosis of malaria of patients referred from Medicine and General Out Patient Department (OPD).

2. Scope

This SOP is limited for the collection of peripheral blood smear of malaria from in the Malaria OPD at the Department of Clinical Pharmacology.

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3. Responsibility

Surveillance Investigator, Laboratory Technician

4. Detailed Instruction

- i) Patients are referred from Medicine OPD, General OPD and wards to Department of Clinical Pharmacology for the diagnosis of malaria.
- ii) The details of the patient such as date, patient's name, age, sex, address entered in record book by Surveillance Investigator in General OPD NO.10
- iii) The smear no. given to patient's slide is also written on case paper.
- iv) The slide is collected by the Surveillance Investigator as follows:
 - The ring finger of patient's left hand is cleaned with cotton soaked in alcohol.
 - The ball of the finger is pricked with a sterile lancet.
 - Applying gentle pressure to the finger, a single small drop of blood is collected on middle of the slide for making thin smear and 3-4 small drops slightly away from thin smear for making a thick smear. By using another clear glass slide as a spreader, the blood drop is spread for making thin and thick smear as shown in figure.
 - Allow slides to air dry before staining. Normally this takes 15 – 20 minutes.

5. References:

Chatterjee, KD (Author), Calcutta. *Parasitology (Protozoology and Helminthology) in relation to Clinical Medicine*, **12**: 212-214.

6. Appendix

Thick Smear:

3-4 small drops of blood spread on one side with the corner of another clean slide to get a round smear whose thickness should be such as to allow newsprint to be read or the hands of a wrist-watch to be seen through the dry preparation.

Thin Smear:

A single drop of blood spread longitudinally (length-wise) with the help of another clean slide to get a single layer of red blood cells.

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