

Quality Issues of AFB Smear Preparation and Staining Technique

- Important:
- 1) Always use good quality stains, chemicals, reagents, and new slides.
 - 2) Prepare and label staining solutions as per standard operating procedures.
 - 3) Verify quality and maintain the record.
 - 4) Store all stains, chemicals, reagents, and solutions under appropriate conditions.
 - 5) Discard expired stains, chemicals, reagents, and solutions.

Slide Quality

Greasy

Scratches

Correct Selection of Sputum

Saliva

Purulent

Smear Thickness

Checking of smear thickness

Too thick

Correct

Too thin

Smear Size

Too large

Too small

Multiple

Correct

Correct smears

Air Drying and Fixation

Boiling of smear

Wet smear fixation

Over heating

Correct

Differentiation and Counterstaining

Under decolourisation

Proper

Over counter staining

Staining of AFB

Artefacts

Phenol crystals

Fibers

Debris

Key: = Incorrect = Correct