

GRAM STAINS AND LABORATORY TEST RESULTS

MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE TREATMENT GUIDELINES

FEBRUARY 2005

MICROSCOPY

-	no polymorphonuclear cells.
occ poly	less than one polymorphonuclear cell/oil immersion field.
+	1-4 polymorphonuclear cell/oil immersion field.
++	5-8 polymorphonuclear cells/oil immersion field.
+++	8-20 polymorphonuclear cells/oil immersion field.
++++	>20 polymorphonuclear cells/oil immersion field.

In males, 5 or more polymorphs/oil immersion field are considered to indicate the presence of an infection.

In females, polymorphs in the urethral or vaginal smears are often seen in the absence of infection. Polymorphs in the cervical smear only are frequently seen without any known infection.

+	
++	Gram positive diplococci resembling <i>Neisseria gonorrhoea</i> seen.
I/C & E/C GNDC	intra-cellular and extra-cellular Gram negative diplococci.
GPC	Gram positive cocci.
GPB	Gram positive bacilli.
GNB	Gram negative bacilli.
GNCB	Gram negative coccobacilli.
Mixed bacteria	Bacteria resembling all or some of the above.

Lactobacilli	GPB resembling lactobacilli; normal flora .
Diphtheroid bacilli	GPB resembling diphtheroids; normal flora .
Clue cells	Epithelial cells covered with numerous GNCB and/orGPCB resembling <i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i> .
?Gard	? <i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i> i.e. numerous GNCB and/or GPCB.
Anaerobes	organisms morphologically resembling <i>Bacteroides</i> spp., <i>Fusobacterium</i> spp. or <i>Mobiluncus</i> spp. seen Suggests bacterial vaginosis.
T. vaginalis	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> .
RBCs	Red blood cells.
Yeasts and hyphae	Blastophores and pseudohyphae resembling <i>Candida albicans</i> .
Amine test +	indicative of bacterial vaginosis.

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