



PARAWORLD

PARAWORLD™ Training Resources

F.A.S.T.™ AFB User Guide: Slide Preparation for Acid-Fast Bacilli (AFB) Detection

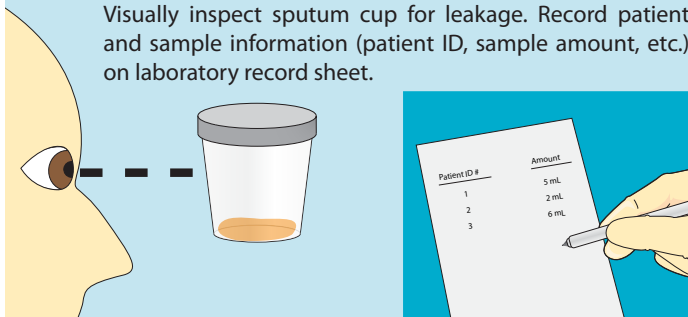


F.A.S.T. Products used in slide preparation:

- One (1) F.A.S.T. Wooden Applicator Stick
- One (1) F.A.S.T. SureFocus™ Microscope Slide (or F.A.S.T. Microscope Slide)

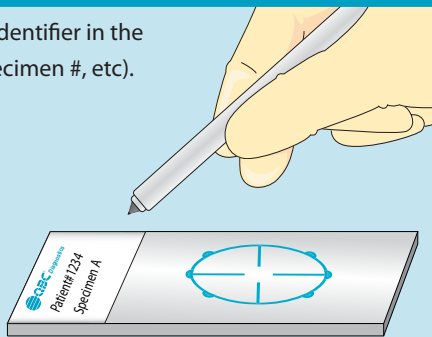
1. Inspect Sample

Visually inspect sputum cup for leakage. Record patient and sample information (patient ID, sample amount, etc.) on laboratory record sheet.



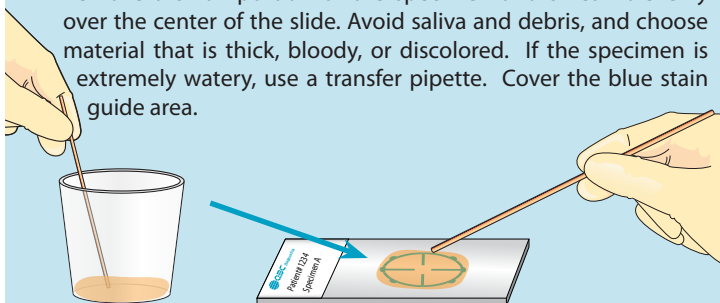
2. Label Slide

Label slide with patient identifier in the patient ID area. (ID #, Specimen #, etc).



3. Apply Smear*

Remove a small portion of the specimen and smear it evenly over the center of the slide. Avoid saliva and debris, and choose material that is thick, bloody, or discolored. If the specimen is extremely watery, use a transfer pipette. Cover the blue stain guide area.



4. Air Dry

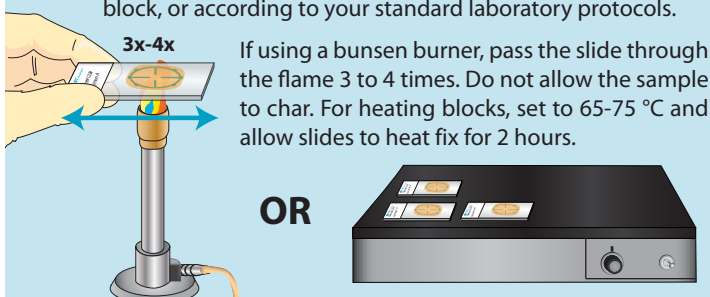
Allow slide to air dry approximately 5 to 10 minutes prior to heat fixing.

Save the sputum cup until after smear examination, then discard the cup into a biohazard container.



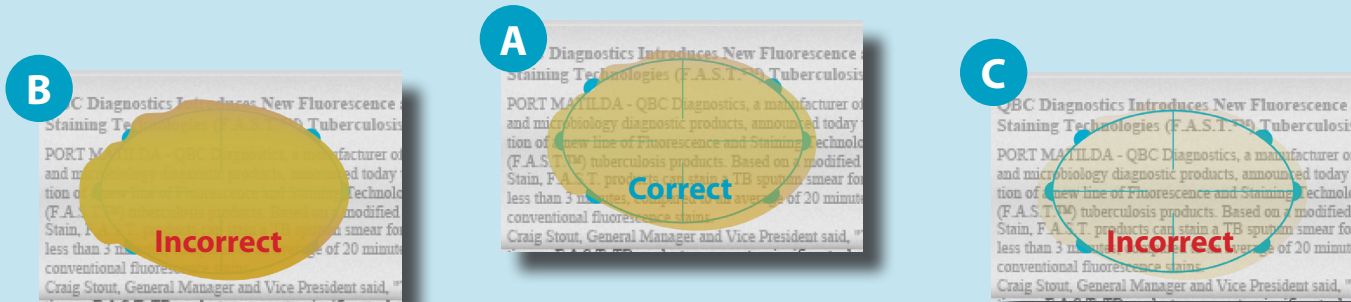
5. Heat Fix Slide

Heat fix the slide using a bunsen burner, electric heating block, or according to your standard laboratory protocols.



Examples of Slide Thickness

A prepared smear should be thick enough to read newsprint through (A). Avoid applying smears that are too thick (B) or too thin (C).



***Note: When working with patient specimens, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be utilized per standard laboratory protocols. An example may be found at www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/tb/tbdoc2.htm.**