

PCR Guidelines for Eye Casualty

PCR requests should only be made after discussion with the Corneal ASTO/Fellow or Consultant

PCR samples can be taken for:

1. Microbial keratitis not responding to standard antimicrobial treatment
2. Suspected Acanthamoeba keratitis
3. Suspected Fungal keratitis
4. Microbial keratitis in immunocompromised patients
5. Microbial keratitis which is confirmed as atypical by the corneal team

PCR samples should **NOT** be taken for:

1. Adenoviral or Chlamydial PCR
2. Herpes Simplex Keratitis
3. Herpes Zoster Keratitis
4. First presentation of typical bacterial keratitis (eg contact lens related acute keratitis) - for these cases, Gram stain and culture plates must be sent to Microbiology

How to take samples for PCR

1. Do not instill any drops apart from topical anaesthesia (no fluorescein).
2. Use a dry swab to take sample from the infected area.
3. Avoid contact of swab to eyelids or eyelashes
4. Fill in a Micropathology request form and place with the sample in the transport tube.
5. Store in the fridge at 4 °C until transported to Micropathology.
6. **Document in Medisoft** or clinical notes if a PCR sample has been sent and what was requested e.g. Fungal 18S, Acanthamoeba, Bacterial 16S.
7. Document the date and time the sample was taken and where it was sent. e.g. Micropathology.
8. PCR results will be uploaded onto CDA on a regular basis. The results should be checked and documented in Medisoft or notes by the next doctor reviewing the patient. You can also contact Micropathology directly on 02476 323222 for results.
9. The following information is required by Micropathology when sending PCR samples:

	Essential	Desirable
Sample	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient's full name or unique code identifier 2. Date of birth 3. Lab reference number 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date and time of sampling 2. Nature of sample i.e. left eye swab
Request form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients full name or unique code identifier 2. Date of birth 3. Gender 4. Lab reference number 5. Sample type 6. Investigation(s) required 7. The full postal address of the requesting authority 8. A contact telephone number 9. A contact name, or consultant's name where possible 10. Secure email/fax/postal details to which the results will be sent. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical information including relevant treatment/medication 2. Date and time of sample 3. Hospital number

Anna Gao
 Hannah Sharma
 Anil Aralikatti

March 2015