

A process for pot staining of sputum for detection of Acid fast Bacilli

Salient features of the technology:

- It is a non- hazardous process to sterilize and stain the sample in its container before making a smear.
- Making smear is non-hazardous; as sputum treated with phenol ammonium sulphate basic fuschin solution is sterile.
- Disposal of sputum is easy.
- Staining procedure become simple as it does not involve heating of carbol-fuschin, which is crucial in the Ziehl-Neelsen (ZN) method.
- Problems encountered as result of over heating such as disfigurations of acid fast bacilli (AFB) in smear and drying of stain if unattended for a longtime by the technicians can be prevented.
- Sputum sample can be transported from remote health facilities to microscopy centers while it is stained in a container.
- There is no risk of generating aerosols as a result of breakage during transportation.
- Smears can be made at a time convenient to laboratory technicians.
- The reagent costs less, as the quantity used for staining is 3 to 4 times less than ZN method.
- An Indian Patent application has been filed.
- This technology has been developed by NIRT, Chennai (an ICMR Institute).