



## ACID-FAST SMEAR, MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF AFB

**Synonym(s):** Acid-fast bacilli Smear, AFB Smear, TB Smear, Mycobacterial Smear, Ziehl-Neelsen Stain for Mycobacteria, ZN-stain for Mycobacteria

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<b>Lab Section Category</b>	<b>Mycobacteriology</b> Click here to find out more about the <b>write-up</b> ( <a href="#">/clinical-departments-centers/pathology/pathology-handbook/lab-discipline-special-instructions/pages/mycobacteriology.aspx</a> ).
<b>Specimen Required</b>	Sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, CSF, body fluid, tissue, pus etc
<b>Method</b>	Smear prepared from digested, decontaminated and concentrated sample. Screening: Auramine O stain. Fluorescent microscopy. Confirmatory: Ziehl Nielsen stain.

<b>Test Result</b>	Acid-fast bacilli seen (with quantitation) / No Acid-fast bacilli seen Quantitation according to United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC method)		
	<b>Number of AFB seen</b>		<b>Report</b>
	Fuchsin stain (1000x)	Fluorochrome stain (450x)	
	0	0	No AFB seen
	1-2/300F	1-2/70 F	Doubtful *
	1-9/100F	2-18/50F	1+
	1-9/10F	4-36/10F	2+
	1-9/F	4-36/F	3+
	>9/F	>36/F	4+
	* Not considered positive. Smears are repeated from either the same or a second specimen.		
<b>Turnaround Time</b>	8 - 24 hours		
<b>Day(s) Test Set up</b>	Monday – Saturday		

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