



Wounds, Bullae and Vesicles

Collection Procedures

1. Closed Wound

- Cleanse the skin as for blood cultures.
- Aspirate the fluid/purulent material using a sterile needle and syringe and transfer to a sterile collection container.
- If no material is obtained, unroof the wound, vesicle or bullous lesion and collect tissue from the base of the lesion to avoid collecting normal flora organisms.

2. Open Wound

- Clean the sinus tract opening of the wound surface mechanically, using sterile saline or 70% alcohol to remove as much of the superficial flora as possible.
- Culture the base or edges of the wound.
- The following are preferred specimens for sinus tracts:
 - Aspiration material obtained by needle or catheterization.
 - Curettings from the lining of the sinus tract.
 - Specimen swabbings of sinus tracts are acceptable only if the specimens listed above cannot be obtained (swabs of sinus tracts may not accurately reflect underlying disease process).
 - **Do not submit specimens of superficial lesions for anaerobic culture.** Biopsy of advancing margin of wound is the preferred specimen for anaerobes, mycobacteria and fungi.