

# Quality Issues of AFB Smear Preparation and Staining Technique

- Important:
- 1) Always use good quality stains, chemicals, reagents, and new slides.
  - 2) Prepare and label staining solutions as per standard operating procedures.
  - 3) Verify quality and maintain the record.
  - 4) Store all stains, chemicals, reagents, and solutions under appropriate conditions.
  - 5) Discard expired stains, chemicals, reagents, and solutions.

### Slide Quality

Greasy

Scratches

### Correct Selection of Sputum

Saliva

Purulent

### Smear Thickness

Checking of smear thickness

Too thick

Correct

Too thin

### Smear Size

Too large

Too small

Multiple

Correct

Correct smears

### Air Drying and Fixation

Boiling of smear

Wet smear fixation

Over heating

Correct

### Differentiation and Counterstaining

Under decolourisation

Proper

Over counter staining

### Staining of AFB

### Artefacts

Phenol crystals

Fibers

Debris

Key: = Incorrect = Correct