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Section: Parasitology Manual	Subject Title: Laboratory Procedures for Blood and Tissue Parasites	
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Toxoplasma gondii

PRINCIPLE & SPECIMEN

The majority of samples submitted for Toxoplasma detection are CSF samples. Toxoplasma can be present in two forms, either tachyzoites or bradyzoites and tachyzoites are the form that you expect to see in CSF.

SAFETY

Assume that all samples are biohazards.

PROCEDURE

This is considered to be a non-routine procedure therefore it should only be performed by experienced personnel.

- a) Prepare smears from spun sediment.
- b) Fix in absolute methanol and stain with Giemsa for 50 minutes.

QUALITY CONTROL

- Ensure that the microscope has been calibrated in the last year and that the results of the calibration are displayed on the microscope base.
- Include a control slide if Giemsa Stain is used. Red cells should stain grayish, white cell nuclei stain red-purple and cytoplasm stains bluish

REPORT

All parasites seen including *Toxoplasma*. Bradyzoites are pyriform with no kinetoplast, tachyzoites will be crescent-shaped especially when released from cells.

LIMITATIONS OF PROCEDURE

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REFERENCES

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