STD,s CLASSIFICATION SPECIMEN HANDLING AND DIAGNOSIS

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- Sexually transmitted diseases can be classified based on the aetiology.
- It can be of viral, bacteria, fungal, parasitic or even protozoal in origin.
- It can also be classified as exudative or non exudative.

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BACTERIA

- Syphilis, caused by the spirochete called *Treponema pallidum*.
- Gonorrohea, caused by the Gram nagative intracellular diplococci; *Neissseria gonorrohea*.
- Chancroid, caused by the Gram negative bacilli ;*Heamophillus ducreyi*

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- Non gonococcal urethritis, is caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

- Non specific urethritis, caused by the organism called *Mycoplasma ureaplasma*

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- VIRAL in origin
- HIV/AIDS. Caused by the HIV virus type I & II
- Genital herpes, caused by the Herpes simplex virus type I & II.
- Genital warts, caused by Papilloma viruses.
- Hepatitis, caused by Hepatitis virus.

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FUNGAL

- Vaginal thrush/ balanitis. Is caused by Candida albicans.

PARASITIC

- Genital scabies, caused by the parasite Sarcoptei scabi.
- Pediculosis pubis, caused by the lice Phthi rus pubis.

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PROTOZOA

- Vaginitis/urethritis. Caused by the protozoan called *Trichomonas vaginitis*.

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SPECIMEN HANDLING & DIAGNOSIS.

Laboratory tests are carried out to

- 1/ to detect microorganism or their products in specimens collected from patients.
- 2/ to detect evidence of the patient's immune response to infection.

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- Ideally samples should be collected before commencement of antibiotics.
- If the patient is receiving, or has received therapy with in the past 48 hrs, this should be stated on the request form.
- Specimen should be transported to the laboratory with minimum delay.

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- Bacteria multiplication of unwanted organisms in the specimen between collection & culture will distort the result.
- Good quality specimens are needed for reliable microbiologic diagnoses.
- The precise identification of the causative organism in infection has become increasingly important now that therapeutic intervention is possible.

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- The ability to achieve this depends upon a positive interaction between the Clinician and the Microbiologist.
- The Clinician must be aware of the complexity of the tests and the time required to produce a result.
- In turn the Microbiologist must appreciate the nature of the patient's

  condition and must be able to assist the clinician in interpreting the laboratory result.

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Important steps in specimen collection.

- Collect enough material and adequate number of samples,e g enough blood/ serum for more than set of blood cultures.
- Avoid contamination from the normal flora e g mid steam urine, and from non sterile equipment.

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- It is always important to use the correct containers and appropriate transport media.
- Specimens should be labelled properly.
- Complete request form with enough clinical information and a statement of possible aetiology.

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- Talk to the microbiologist and inform the laboratory if special tests are required.
- Transport specimen readily to the laboratory.

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- DIAGNOSIS CAN BE
- 1/ Cultural techniques. Which are labor intensive and slow to produce results.{ days rather than hours}
- 2/ Non cultural techniques. Such as the use of DNA probes and amplifica tion of DNA by the polymerase chain reaction[PCR] may also provide answer in a matter of hours.

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