

Maheshwari P.¹, Chaurasia A.¹, Okwi N.², Mukasa N.V.³

¹Fortis Hospital Mulund, Dept. of Urology, Mumbai, India, ²Faculty of Health Sciences, Busitema University, Dept. of Surgery, Busitema, Uganda,

³Mulago National Referral Hospital, Dept. of Surgery, Kampala, Uganda

Introduction & Objectives: Urine culture is a very important test in medical practice, specially in urology. A lot of patient's clinical and therapeutic decisions are taken based on his urine culture report.

Materials & Methods: Fifty consecutive patients who underwent a urine culture test on OPD-basis outside our hospital were interviewed on how the sample was collected and whether patient received proper instructions for sample collection. Basic factors like timing of the sample, whether the sample was mid-stream, were hands and genitalia cleaned before sample collection were assessed. When the sample was collected at home factors like time between the collection and sample reaching at laboratory and how the sample was stored in transit were checked. In laboratory collection, whether the lab was a collection center or they primarily performed the test was also assessed. This information was collected with the help of a OPD nurse who got a questionnaire filled by the patient.

Results: Of the total patients there were 16 males and 34 females. Home collection was done in 64% patients. Most patients, 76%, gave an early morning sample which led to a very long gap between the voiding and sample processing. Most patients (52%) did not receive any instructions for sample collection. Only 40% gave a mid-stream sample. Hand cleaning was not done by 92% patients while only 6% cleaned their genitalia before voiding. None were explained how to clean the genitalia before sample collection. Among the home collected samples, only one-third reached the laboratory in less than one hour, while 37.5% reached after more than two hours. Most samples (96.8%) were not preserved in ice-pack after collection or during the transit.

Among the patients who gave samples in laboratories 64% were given in collection centers. When collected in collection centres, there was a possibility of poor management of the sample in transit and increased gap between void and processing. Overall only 24% collections for urine culture were satisfactory.

Conclusions: With increasing misuse of antibiotics in developing world, it is important to confirm from patient how the sample was collected before starting antibiotics based on culture report, especially in an asymptomatic patients. It is very vital to give proper written & pictorial instructions to the patient before sending for urine culture.