

How to perform a blood smear test – Leishman stain.

The aim of this test is to determine the morphology of the cells within the blood is correct as well as trying to identify any parasites within the blood serum.

Leishman stain is used more to identify Leukocytes and parasites

- 1- Obtain blood from consenting patient and place with anticoagulation (ie EDTA, warfarin etc)
- 2- Place a single drop on one end of the microscope slide



- 3- Use a second slide perpendicular to the first slide to draw the blood drop back before sliding across the whole slide



- 4- Allow to air dry then fix in 10% buffered formalin for 15-20 minutes
- 5- Add Leishman stain and leave for 2 minutes
- 6- Add double the amount of water drops to Leishman stain – ie 5 drops of Leishman stain to 10 drops of water.
- 7- Leave for 10-15 minutes
- 8- View under microscope