

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Procedure for collecting human lice



Overview:

- Each vial of 95-100% ethanol should contain the lice from only a single individual. In other words, there should be no mixing of lice from different individuals, but all of the lice from one individual can go in the same tube.

Procedure:

1. When you receive your louse collection kit, please store the box of ethanol-filled tubes in the freezer (refrigerator is OK) to prevent the ethanol from evaporating. If ethanol evaporates, please add more if you have some available (95% grade or higher)
2. We have also placed a piece of paper with the same unique number located inside the tube of ethanol as the number on the outside. This is just a precaution in case the number on top of the cap becomes obscured. Please leave this paper inside the tube.
3. From each person's head, collect as many lice as you can (at least 10 if possible) and put them in a tube. Each tube should NOT contain lice from more than one person.
 - a. Prepare the hair. Spray the hair with water or a light solution of water and conditioner to keep the hair wet so combing is easier.
 - b. Have a small container with clean (unused) soapy water or vinegar to dip the comb after each patient. Clean the comb carefully between patients and use a paper towel to remove lice and debris after each rinse.
 - c. It is important to separate the hair into to small sections so you can easily see lice and nits. Dip the comb in soapy water or vinegar water. Run the comb through the hair starting from the very base of the hair- lice stay close to the skin. Do this movement only in one direction. Check the comb for lice after every passage through the hair. Lice would be "stuck" between the tines of the comb. It may help to systematically go through the hair combing it to find the lice. You may want to have something under the comb in case lice falls off.
 - d. It may also help to have a white sheet of paper available. After running the comb through the hair, shake the comb over the white paper and collect the lice that fall using the forceps provided. The lice can also be collected from the comb directly. Use the method that is the easiest.
 - e. Make sure the lice is completely submerged in the ethanol (otherwise, the lice will rot).
4. We have given each tube a unique number that matches the number on the spreadsheet provided. We also have provided the information needed from the patient, which includes:
 - a. Where the collection took place. The country, town, region (as specific as possible, GPS is fine too)
 - b. Biological information about the host: sex, age and any other information you may feel important to us.
5. Please use the parafilm provided to reseal the tubes, so the ethanol does not evaporate. A small amount of parafilm will stretch over the seal.

6. Please store the lice in the freezer, but if necessary room temperature will be fine as long as they are in the ethanol.
7. Once you have collected the lice please contact Niyomi House for mailing instructions. nwijewardena@ufl.edu or by phone (+1) 906-362-1162

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Louse Collecting Kit Contents:

Please store your collection kit in the Freezer (best) or refrigerator. This will prevent the ethanol in the tubes from evaporating. If the ethanol evaporates, please re-fill with 95% ethanol.

1. Box with 25 tubes (2 ml) filled with 95% ethanol and sealed with parafilm
 - Each tube will contain lice from one host individual. Make sure lice are completely submerged in ethanol.
2. Louse comb
 - In addition to combing through the hair and catching lice within the comb, the comb also can be used to help move hair apart so you can see to the base of the hair (and the scalp)
3. Forceps
 - Use the forceps to transfer the lice to the ethanol-filled tubes.
 - Try not to squish the lice with the forceps when moving them. Alternatively, you can dab the forceps in some ethanol first, and then touch the louse. Sometimes the wet surface causes the louse to stick to the comb.
4. Parafilm
 - Please use this to seal tubes after lice have been collected. The plastic should be stretched over the seal of the lid to make it air tight. Make sure lice are all submerged in the ethanol before sealing (alternatively, the tube can be rocked back and forth to try to get all the lice submerged).
5. Spreadsheet
 - Also provided in the package are spreadsheets to provide host information. Host information should match to the number on the collection vial. Please include information such as: Country, region and any biological information about the patient (sex, age etc.), and any other information you feel may be important.