

Mycetoma Grains Storage Standard Operating Procedure

The Mycetoma Research Center Biobank





Mycetoma Grains Storage Standard Operating Procedure

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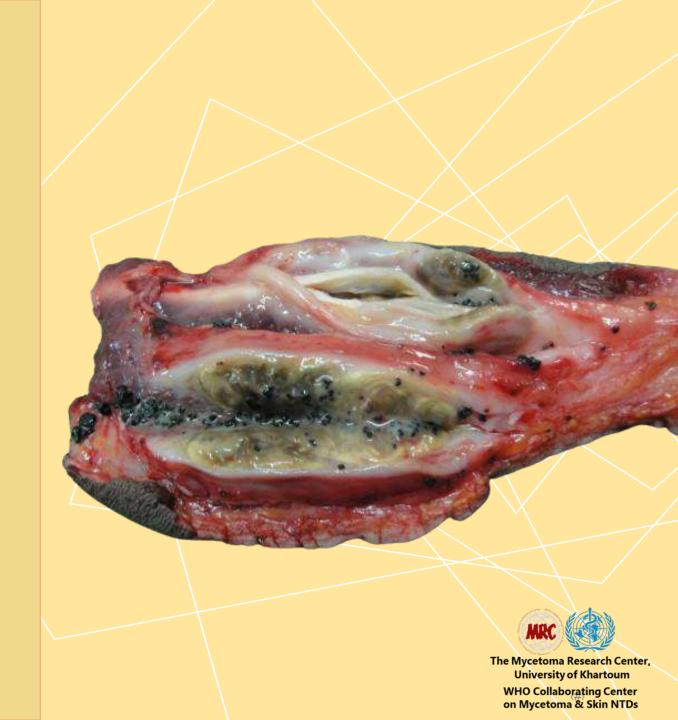


Purpose

To outline the standard procedure for the collection, processing, labeling, and long-term storage of mycetoma grains at the Mycetoma Research Center Biobank to ensure specimen integrity and traceability.

Scope

This SOP applies to all personnel involved in handling, storing, and managing mycetoma grains in the Biobank.



Responsibilities

Biobank Personnel

Responsible for the proper handling, labeling, and storage of samples according to this SOP.

Principal Investigators

Responsible for ensuring that samples are collected, transported, and stored in accordance with this SOP.

Laboratory Technicians

Assist in sample processing and ensure that storage conditions are maintained.



Materials and Equipment

- Sterile containers (e.g., 15 mL or 50 mL conical tubes)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Labels with unique identification numbers
- Cryogenic vials
- Cryogenic gloves
- Cryopreservation media (if required)
- Ultra-low temperature freezer (-80°C)
- Liquid nitrogen storage system (-196°C) for long-term storage
- Laboratory logbook or electronic database for sample tracking
- Biosafety cabinet (Class II)
- Centrifuge (optional, depending on sample processing)



Collection Procedure

1. Sample Collection

- Collect mycetoma grains aseptically from the patient during surgery or biopsy.
- Place grains in a sterile container and label with patient ID, date of collection, and any additional necessary information (e.g., site of infection).
- Transport samples immediately to the Biobank for further processing.





Collection Procedure 2. Initial Processing

- Upon receipt, inspect the sample for integrity and confirm labeling.
- Clean the grains using sterile normal saline if necessary to remove any debris or contaminating material.
- If required for future molecular analysis, an aliquot may be taken for DNA/RNA extraction and stored separately



Labeling

1. Assigning Unique Identifiers

- Assign a unique Biobank ID number to each mycetoma grain sample.
- Each cryogenic vial should be labeled with the following information:
 - Unique Biobank ID
 - Date of collection
 - Sample type (e.g., grain, DNA, RNA, etc.)
 - Storage conditions (e.g., -80°C or liquid nitrogen)



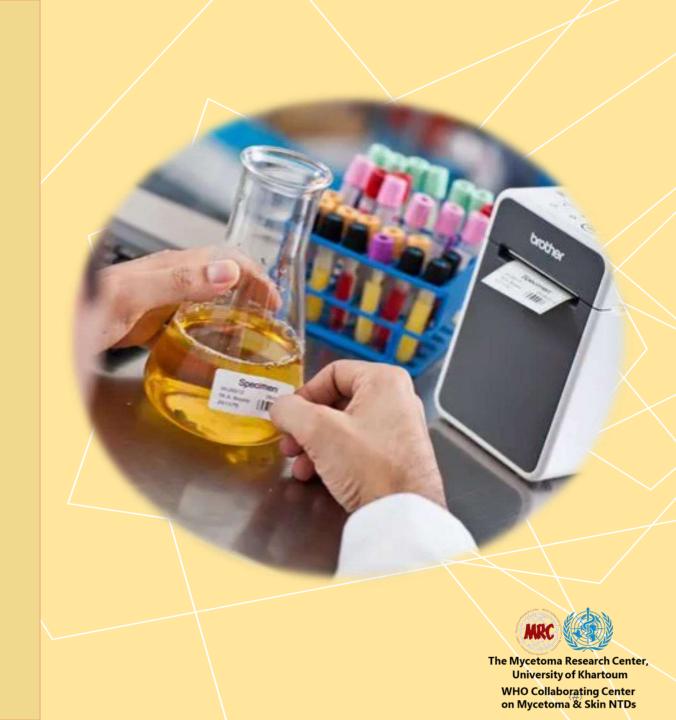


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Labeling

2. Barcoding

- Use barcoding for efficient tracking and retrieval of samples if possible.
- Ensure all barcodes are scanned into the electronic database and crossreferenced with the physical label.



Storage Conditions

1. Short-Term Storage

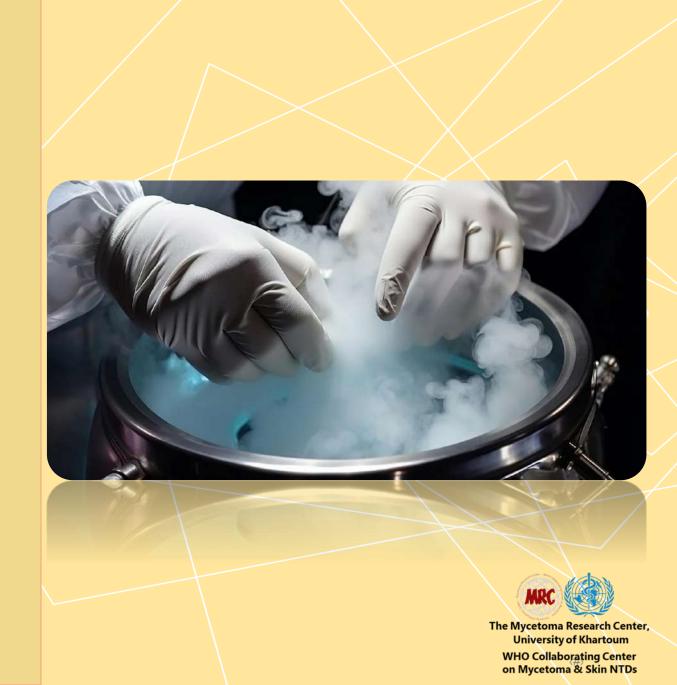
- Store samples temporarily at -20°C if they cannot be immediately processed.
- Ensure that the sample processing is completed within 24 hours.



Storage Conditions

2. Long-Term Storage

- For long-term preservation, aliquot grains into cryogenic vials and store at:
 - -80°C: Suitable for several years but requires monitoring for temperature fluctuations.
 - Liquid Nitrogen (-196°C): Ideal for indefinite preservation. Use cryosafe vials and label them appropriately.

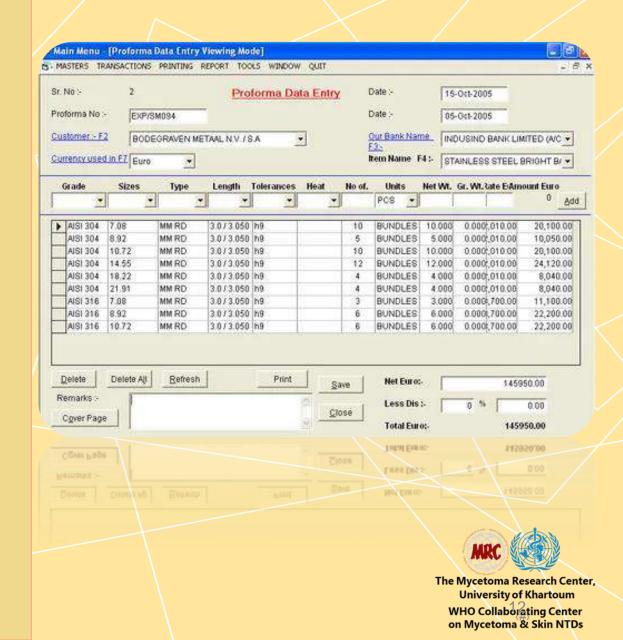


Documentation

1. Data Entry

Record all necessary information in the Biobank database, including:

- Patient demographics (with confidentiality maintained)
- Collection date and site
- Sample type and condition
- Storage location
- Aliquot number and volume



Documentation

2. Sample Tracking

- Implement a system for tracking sample removal and return.
- Ensure records are updated any time a sample is accessed, used, or transferred for research.



Quality Control

1. Freezer Monitoring

- Monitor ultra-low freezers and liquid nitrogen tanks continuously using automated temperature monitoring systems.
- Maintain regular maintenance logs and ensure backup power systems are functional.

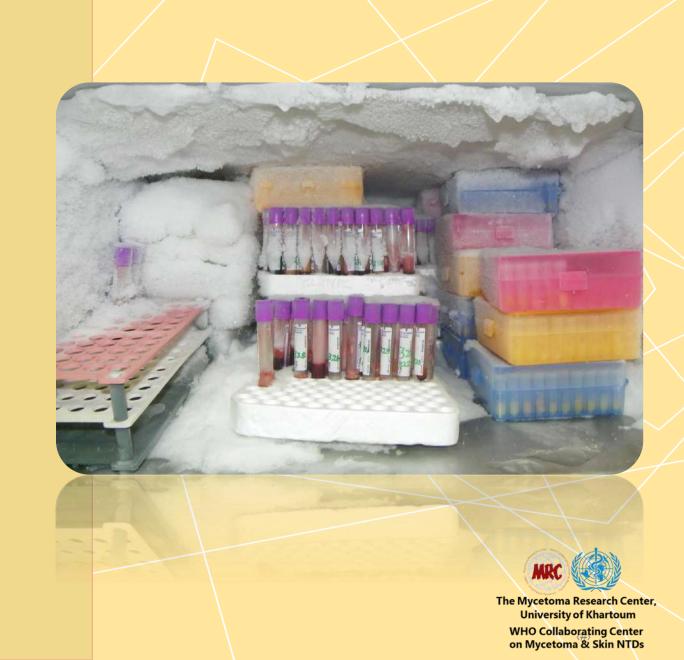


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Quality Control

2. Sample Integrity Check

- Periodically check the physical integrity of the stored Mycetoma grains and labels.
- If any deterioration in sample or label is observed, record this in the database and take appropriate action.



Safety and Biosafety

- 1. Personal Protective Equipment
 (PPE)
- All personnel handling Mycetoma grains must wear appropriate PPE, including gloves, lab coats, and cryogenic gloves when working with -80°C freezers or liquid nitrogen.



Safety and Biosafety

2. Biosafety Cabinet

 All sample processing steps should be conducted in a biosafety cabinet (Class II) to prevent contamination.







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Safety and Biosafety

3. Hazardous Waste

 Dispose of any biological waste, including contaminated media and consumables, in accordance with institutional biosafety protocols.





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Sample Retrieval and Usage

1. Requesting Samples

 Researchers must submit a formal request and approval must be granted by the Biobank Manager before samples are accessed.





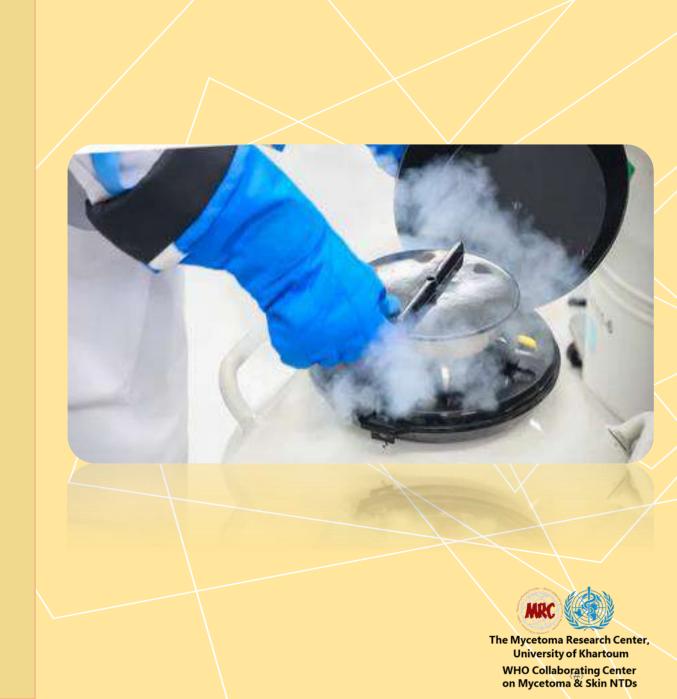


Sample Retrieval and Usage

2. Thawing Samples

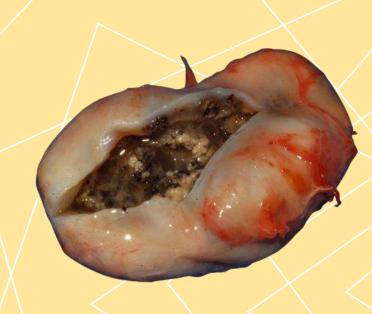
When retrieving samples, follow a controlled thawing process:

- Remove cryovials from liquid nitrogen or -80°C freezer.
- Thaw at room temperature or in a 37°C water bath for a short duration (if needed).
- Record the date and time of thawing in the database.



Return of Unused Samples

 If any portion of the sample is unused, it should be returned to the Biobank and stored under appropriate conditions.



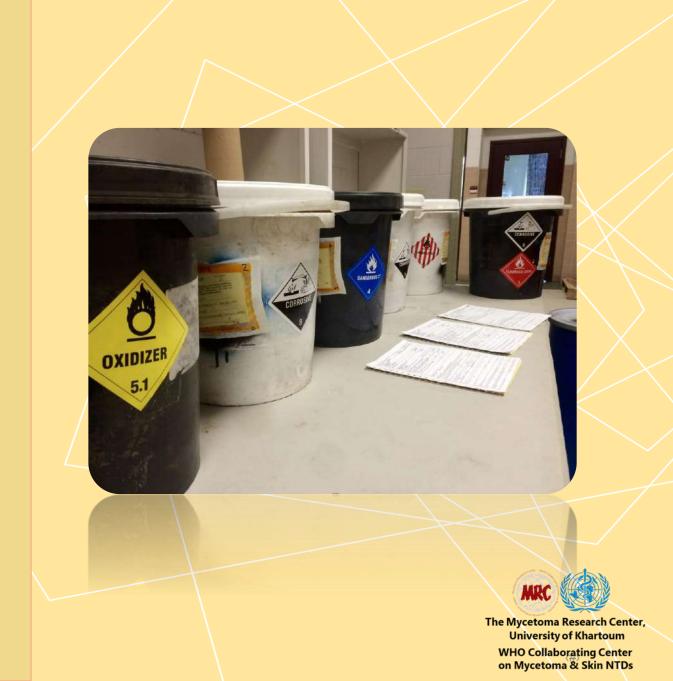




Disposal of Samples

1. Expired Samples

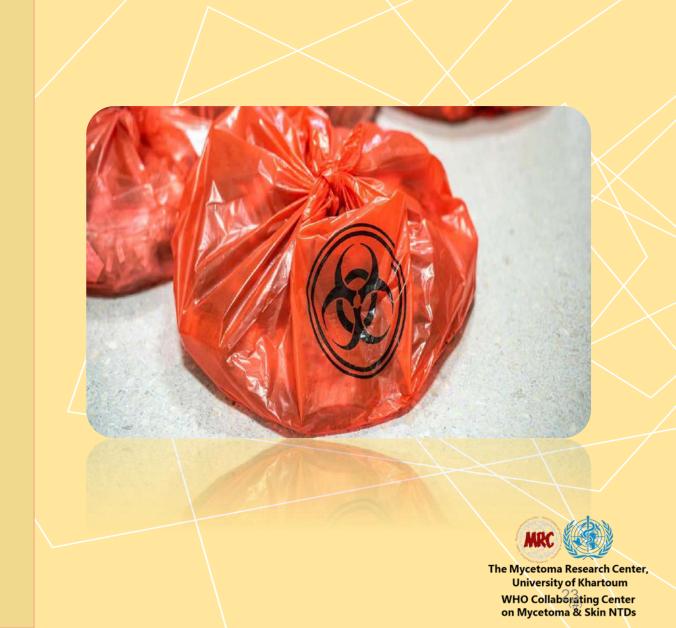
 If samples reach their defined shelf-life or are deemed no longer usable, they should be disposed of according to the Biobank's waste management protocols.



Disposal of Samples

2. Documentation of Disposal

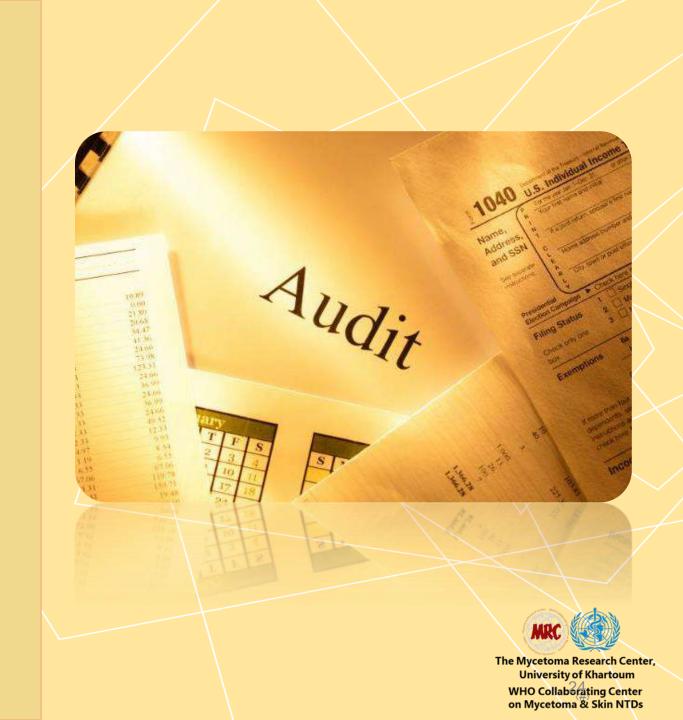
- Ensure that disposal of samples is documented and records are updated in the Biobank database.



Audit and Review

1. Annual Audits

 Conduct annual audits of the Biobank storage facilities, including an inventory check to ensure compliance with the SOP.



Audit and Review

2. Review of SOP

 This SOP should be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect changes in technology or research requirements.

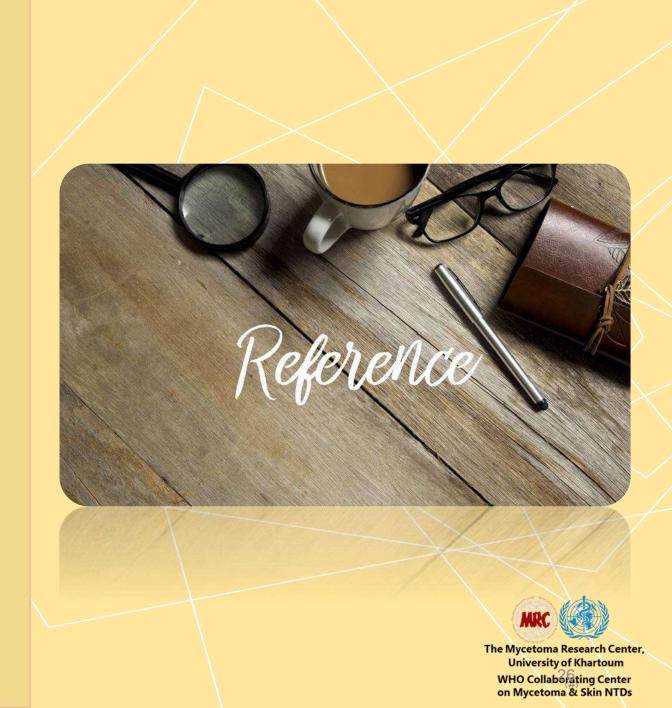


References

WHO Guidelines for Biobanking https://www.iarc.who.int/branches-nme-lsb-research/

Bayot ML, Limaiem F. Biosafety Guidelines. StatPearls Publishing; 2024 Jan. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK53721

Mycetoma Research Center Biobank Guide



Approval

This SOP is approved by the Mycetoma Research Center Director and must be adhered to by all relevant personnel.

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Prof Fahal	MRC Director	Fahal

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