

APPENDIX 8

Methods of Sample Collection

1. Dengue Serology (ELISA)

- i. Draw 3-5 ml of blood into a plain tube without anti-coagulants.
- ii. Clot at ambient temperature
- iii. Dispatch to the laboratory within 4 hours of collection for serum separation by centrifugation.

Note: Hemolysed or icteric or lipaemic specimens invalidate certain test. If such specimens are received, the samples will be rejected to assure results are of clinical value.

2. Viral Particles Detection (PCR)

Blood

- i. Collect 3-5 ml of blood into plain tube.
- ii. Send directly to virology lab within 2 hours of sampling. If this is delayed, centrifuge and aliquot serum into sterile tube. Keep the sample in a freezer at -70°C and put in ice when sending to virology lab the next day.

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)

- i. Collect a minimum of 0.5 ml (5 drops) of CSF into a sterile bijoux bottle.
- ii. Pack in ice for transport
- iii. Send directly to virology lab within 2 hours after being taken.
- iv. Send together with serum sample

Post-mortem tissue sample

Tissue specimens should be placed in a sterile container and sent immediately to the lab. The specimens should be “snap” frozen in liquid nitrogen or in a -70 °C bath such as dry ice/alcohol as quickly as possible after collection. Once frozen, the tissue specimen can be stored at -70°C until detection by PCR.

3. Viral Isolation

Blood

- i. Draw 3-5 ml of blood into a plain tube without anti-coagulants

CSF

- i. Collect at least 1 ml of CSF specimen in a sterile plain screw capped container (universal or Bijou Bottle). Do not add in VTM or freeze.
- ii. Pack the specimen individually in biohazard plastic bag and keep in 4°C or in cold box with ice.
- iii. Send to the lab within 24 hours after collection.

Tissue or post mortem tissue

- i. Put the tissue in sterile container screw capped tight to avoid drying of tissue. Do not add in VTM
- ii. Packed the specimen individually in biohazard plastic bag and keep in 4°C or in cold box with ice.
- iii. Send to the lab within 24 hours after collection
 - Inform the laboratory processing the samples that the case was fatal
 - Obtain a blood sample to attempt virus isolation and serology
 - Obtain tissue samples for separate tests of virus isolation and immunohistochemistry