

COUNTING MICROFILARIAE

SHELLY MICHALSKI 9-24-96

1. From gerbil peritoneum preparation:

Count 10 μL of a 1:100 dilution of your sample using the light microscope on 10X objective (no cover slip needed). Do this in triplicate and obtain a mean mf count for that dilution.

Yield:

$$\frac{\text{mean \# mf counted}}{10 \text{ ul of 1:500}} \times (5 \times 10^5) = \text{total \# mf in 10 mL}$$

2. From blood:

Obtain 20 μL blood containing mf by standard methods (i.e. ocular or saphenous bleed of infected gerbil). Transfer to a slide, and add two drops 2% formalin. Gently spread the mixture on the center of the slide, examine using phase optics at 10X to count mf. The number of mf in a blood sample is standardly expressed as #mf/20 μL blood.