A Patient Presents With Corneal Ulcer. What Would You Recommend?

It is important to remember that the clinical appearance of suppurative keratitis depends on many variables, and it is often difficult to arrive at an etiological diagnosis based entirely on slit-lamp examination. Laboratory investigations are therefore required if the causative organism is to be identified. It consists of corneal scraping using #15 surgical blade or Kimura's spatula and inoculating it on various culture media that promote the growth of bacteria, fungi, and parasites as shown in Figure 27-8. The initial management is based on smear examination.

Figure 27-5. Corneal ulcer caused by gram-positive bacteria *S. pneumoniae* (A) and gram-negative bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (B).

Figure 27-6. Corneal ulcer caused by *Nocardia asteroides*.

Figure 27-7. Corneal ulcer caused by filamentous fungi (A) and acanthamoeba (B).