

<b>Department:</b>	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Microbiology)		
<b>Document:</b>	Internal Policy and Procedures		
<b>Title:</b>	Throat Swab Culture		
<b>Applies To:</b>	All Laboratory Staff		
<b>Preparation Date:</b>	January 06, 2025	<b>Index No:</b>	LB-IPP-133
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<b>Review Date:</b>	February 20, 2028	<b>No. of Pages:</b>	03

## 1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To establish system and set responsibilities for processing throat swab culture.

## 2. DEFINITONS:

2.1 N/A

## 3. POLICY:

3.1 The specimen is collected using a clean, sterile swab and placed in Amies transport medium.  
 3.2 If a delay in transport or processing is anticipated, the specimen should be kept at 4 °C.

## 4. PROCEDURE:

### 4.1 Direct Examination:

4.1.1 Not indicated for Group A streptococcus, or *Neisseria meningitidis*.  
 4.1.2 If yeast (thrush) is suspected / requested:  
 4.1.2.1 Examine for presence of pseudo hyphae and/or budding yeast.  
 4.1.3 If Vincent's angina is suspected / requested:  
 4.1.3.1 Examine for presence of spirochetes and/or fusiform bacilli and pus cells.

### 4.2 Culture:

4.2.1 Media:

Media	Incubation:
Blood Agar (BA)	O2, 35+2 °C x 18-24 hours
Chocolates Agar (CHOC)	CO2, 35+2 °C x 72 hours
If yeast (thrush) is suspected / requested: Sabouraud agar (SD)	O2, 30° C x 48 hours

### 4.2.2 Interpretation of Cultures:

4.2.2.1 Examine the BA plate after 18-24 hours incubation and identify all morphologically distinct beta hemolytic colonies by performing Gram stain.  
 4.2.2.2 Examine the CHOC plate after 48- and 72-hours incubation for *Neisseria*.

### 4.2.3 Susceptibility Testing:

4.2.3.1 Refer to Susceptibility Testing Manual. Susceptibility testing of penicillin and other B-lactams approved by the FDA for treatment of B-haemolytic streptococcal infections need not be performed routinely, because non-susceptible isolates (i.e., penicillin MICs > 0.12 and ampicillin MICs > 0.25 ug/mL) are extremely rare in any B-haemolytic streptococcus and have not been reported for *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

### 4.2.4 Reporting Results:

4.2.4.1 Gram stain Negative result:  
 4.2.4.1.1 "No yeast seen on direct examination"  
 4.2.4.1.2 "No organisms suggestive of Vincent's angina seen"  
 4.2.4.2 Gram stain Positive result:

- 4.2.4.2.1 "Yeast is seen on direct examination."
- 4.2.4.2.2 "Organisms suggestive of Vincent's angina seen"
- 4.2.4.3 Culture Negative report:
  - 4.2.4.3.1 "No Group A streptococcus isolated" or (Growth of normal Throat Flora)
- 4.2.4.4 Culture Positive report:
  - 4.2.4.4.1 "Group A streptococcus/ Strept. pyogenes" was isolated.
- 4.2.4.5 Antibiotic susceptibility Comment:
  - 4.2.4.5.1 Penicillin and Ampicillin are drugs of choice for treatment of B-haemolytic streptococcal Infections.

## 5. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 The ordinary culture media
- 5.2 Gram stain reagents
- 5.3 O2 & CO2 incubators
- 5.4 Microscan panels/ Vitek 2 system ID & AST cards
- 5.5 Upper respiratory tract flora

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 The assigned technician/ technologist for microbiology lab.
- 6.2 The C. Pathology Specialist/ Consultant.

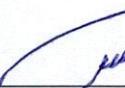
## 7. APPENDICES:

- 7.1 N/A

## 8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Procedure Manual, Toronto Medical laboratories / Mount Sinai Hospital department of microbiology.
- 8.2 Bailey & Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology. Feingold & Baron; 12th. Ed.2007, C.V. Mosby Co. p. 301.
- 8.3 Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, American Society of Microbiology, Washington DC, 2005.

## 9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Dr. Kawther M. Abdou	Consultant & Lab. Medical Director		January 06, 2025
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Reviewed by:	Mr. Abdulelah Ayed Al Mutairi	QM&PS Director		January 12, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Tamer Mohamed Naguib	Medical Director		January 13, 2025
Approved by:	Mr. Fahad Hazam Alshammari	Hospital Director		January 20, 2025