



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH
CLUSTER
MATERNITY AND
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

Department:	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Microbiology)		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedures		
Title:	Throat Swab Culture		
Applies To:	All Laboratory Staff		
Preparation Date:	January 06, 2025	Index No:	LB-IPP-133
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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 meningitides.
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; Sabauroud 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.

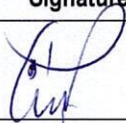

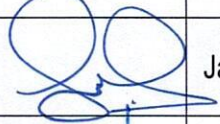


7. APPENDICES:

- 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
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Reviewed by:	Ms. Noora Melfi Alanizi	Laboratory & Blood Bank Director		January 08, 2025
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