



Clinical Laboratory Department POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 1213
VERSION: 3

SUBJECT: Culture for *N. gonorrhoea*

Specimen Handling

1. Specimen may be Culturette swab or a Martin Lewis (ML) Agar plate which was inoculated at the time the provider obtained the specimen. Inoculated plates should be submitted as soon as possible to the laboratory.

2. Primary inoculation - use swab to inoculate a full pre-warmed ML plate. (Use Z-streak pattern.) Then, using a sterile inoculating loop, streak back and forth through the inoculum to spread it over the entire surface of the plate. This allows for isolation of colonies for ease in determining purity and colony morphology.

3. Incubate ML plates in CO2 incubator for a total of 48 hours.

4. Gram stain and examine a direct smear, if ordered, for the presence of typical gram negative diplococci, intracellular or extracellular.

Culture Evaluation and Workup

1. Examine ML plate after 24 and 48 hours for growth of small glistening colonies typical of *N. gonorrhoea*.

2. If amount of growth permits, gram stain and perform oxidase test.

3. If culture growth is too young, mixed, or too few colonies, pick 3-4 colonies of similar morphology and subculture to ML and/or chocolate agar. Incubate new and old plate until it is possible to proceed.

4. Send fresh chocolate slant of oxidase positive, gram negative diplococci to Quest/Reference Lab or MLK for confirmation.

Reporting Culture Results

1. Negative cultures: report as "No *N. gonorrhoea* isolated" using the Microbiology Coded Response Sheet.

2. Positive cultures: report growth of gram negative diplococci, oxidase positive, sent for confirmation (or identification) using the Microbiology Coded Response Sheet.

3. Since we are not confirming any cases, we do not have to send in any CMRs per public health (12/18/09).

POLICY NO: 1213	SUBJECT: Culture for N. gonorrhoea Culture for N. gonorrhoea	Page 2 of 2
---------------------------	--	--------------------

Reporting Positive Gram Stains

1. Quantitate the amount of extracellular and/or intracellular gram negative diplococci.
2. If patient is male, give final report to lab clerk to fill out "Confidential Notification of Positive Laboratory Tests" form.
3. Vaginal and cervical smears for Neisseria are not reportable because vaginal flora (e.g. Neisseria sp., Moraxella, etc.) may mimic GC on gram stain.

References

Bailey and Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology, 9th edition, Baron, Ellen Jo; Peterson, Lance R; Finegold, Sydney M., Mosby, St. Louis, Missouri, 1994.

List of Reportable Diseases. County of Los Angeles, Preventive Health Services Form H-794 (Rv. 6-80) 76c343F.

Approved By: Brian Yee (PHYS SPEC PATHOLOGY)	
Date: 04/09/2017	Original Date: 12/13/1988
Reviewed: 04/09/2017	Next Review Date: 04/09/2018
Revised: 1/10/92, 10/15/92, 8/22/95, 1/22/01, 4/15/04dnb-updated language to HDHS, 5/17/04jh-added "or submitted immediately" to item 1, spec handling, 6/7/04jh-removed need to quantitate gc, 12/15/04jh-added CAP to culture eval/workup, 12/18/09jh-updated to send out gc for id since gonogen not avail, 5/20/10 jh-reformatted, 5/20/13 jh corrected typos, 4/7/17jh changed approver to Dr.Yee	
Written By: Jill Hartenstein (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST II)	
Distribution:	