



Clinical Laboratory Department POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 1183
VERSION: 3

SUBJECT: LIM Broth

Purpose

LIM Broth is recommended for the selective enrichment of group B Streptococci (*Streptococcus agalactiae*).

Group B Streptococci colonize 10-20% of all pregnant women and are frequent causes of neonatal sepsis, meningitis and respiratory distress. Studies have shown that of the women that carry group B strep, 70% pass it to the infant during delivery. Because group B Streptococci produce asymptomatic disease in adult women, it is important to identify the carrier state so that effective therapeutic intervention can be implemented.

The medium is made from a Todd Hewitt Base formulated to provide the necessary nutrients for the development of streptococci. Colistin and nalidixic acid are added as inhibitory agents toward gram negative microorganisms.

Storage

Upon receipt, store at 2-8°C away from direct light. Media should not be used if there are any signs of deterioration, discoloration, contamination or if the expiration date has passed. Product is light and temperature sensitive; protect from light, excessive heat, moisture and freezing.

Procedure

Obtain one or two swabs of the vaginal/rectal areas. Cervical cultures are not acceptable. Vaginal cultures should be collected with a dacron, rayon or calcium alginate swabs. The swab(s) should be submitted directly to the laboratory for immediate processing. If there is to be a delay in processing, the specimen should be refrigerated at 4°C until processed.

1. Inoculate swab(s) directly into LIM Broth.
2. Incubate aerobically for 18-24 hours at 35-37°C.
3. Following incubation, subculture the broth to a Blood Agar Plate.
4. Incubate the subculture for 18-24 hours at 35-37°C in an aerobic atmosphere.
5. Observe for growth of beta hemolytic or non-hemolytic, gram positive, catalase negative colonies.
6. Using isolated colonies obtained from the Blood Agar Plate; perform a CAMP test or a particle agglutination test or tests recommended for the detection of group B streptococci antigen.

Interpretation of Results

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Consult the procedure for the test employed (e.g. latex testing for group B Streptococci or CAMP test) for the detection of group B streptococci antigen.

Limitations

The media is a selective enrichment broth. Additional tests including subculture to an appropriate agar media as well as biochemical and/or serological tests using pure cultures should be performed for complete identification.

Quality Control

Check for signs of contamination and deterioration. QC is not required per Hardy QC Vouchers.

References

Hardy Diagnostics, HUGO information sheet, 2002.

Approved By: Brian Yee (PHYS SPEC PATHOLOGY)	
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