

Vitreous Fluid Culture

I. Specimen Types

Vitreous fluid/washings
Anterior chamber
Corneal scraping
OS/OD scraping
Eye fluid
Canniculus
Eye swabs from the operating room

II. Potential Pathogens

Any organism isolated from vitreous fluid is a potential pathogen. The most commonly isolated organisms are:

Anaerobes, including *Propionibacterium acnes*
Bacillus sp.
Gram negative rods
Staph aureus
Staph sp. not *aureus*
Streptococci

III. Work-up and Reporting

Aerobic and anaerobic culture plates must be held for 5 days.

A. After 1-4 days incubation

1. Observe the plates.
 - a. If sterile:
 - i. Re-incubate the plates.
 - ii. Report: **No Growth to Date.**
 - b. If growth is present:
 - i. Speciate and report the presumptive isolate(s) according to the identification charts, and report the results.
 - ii. Perform susceptibility testing on the organisms, if appropriate.
 - All yeast isolates must be sent to Mycology for identification.
 - iii. Re-incubate the plates.
 - c. Seal the plates on day 2 to prevent the media from drying out.
 - d. Fluids inoculated into blood culture bottles are incubated for 5 days.
 - e. All positive vitreous fluid cultures are brought up on Rounds.
 - f. All positive cultures are considered medical emergencies and must be called to the patient care area and the physician.

B. After 5 days incubation

1. Observe the plates.
 - a. If sterile, report: **No growth.**
 - b. If growth is present, refer to **III.A.1.a. – f.**

Effective 05/08/2006

Reviewed by Microbiology Director, Dr. Ann Robinson: 05/10/2006

Reviewed by Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Schappert: 03/10/2010

Reviewed by Microbiology Supervisor, Jerry Claridge: 01/2007, 09/2007, 09/2008, 09/2009, 03/2011,
03/2013, Jason Ammons 05/2015

Updates and Revisions: