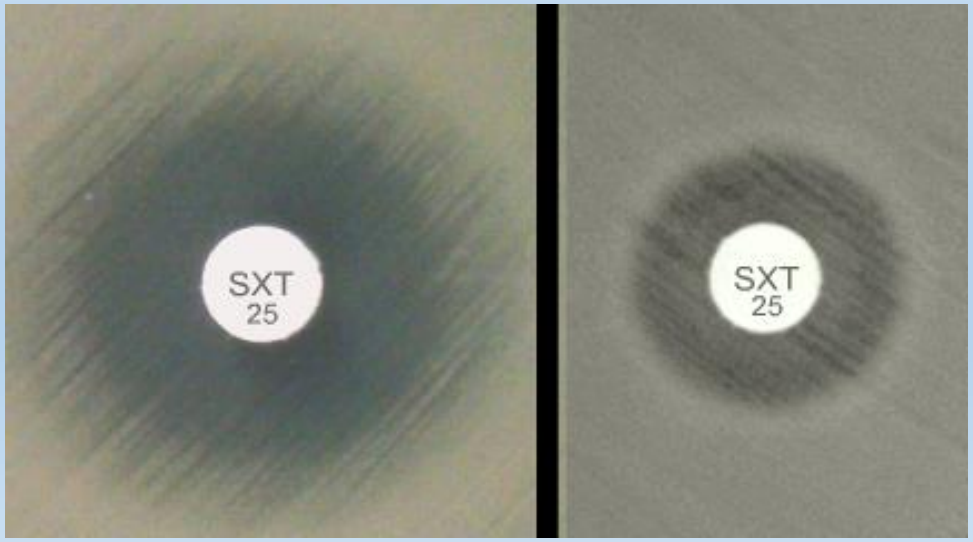
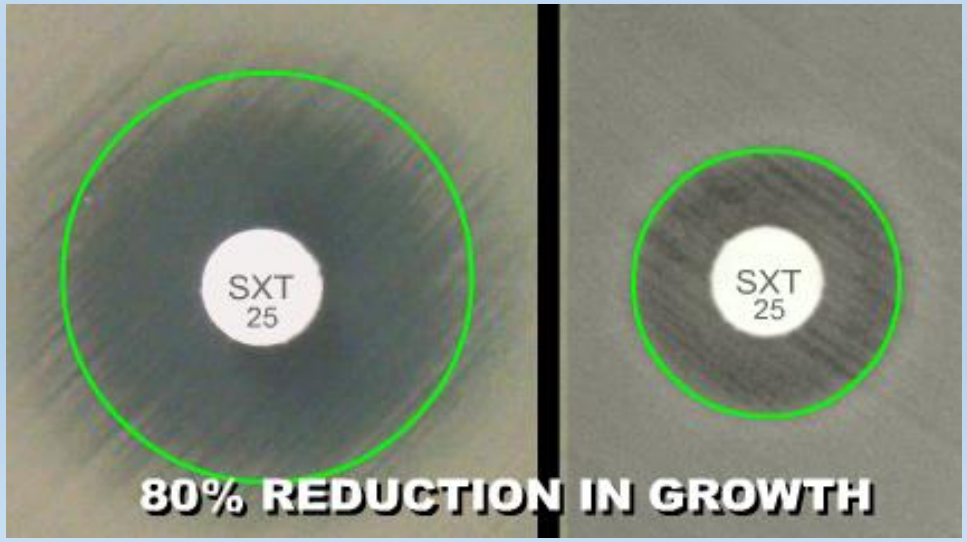
Interpreting Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (SXT) Disk Diffusion Zones

Zones may be difficult to read because this agent may not inhibit bacteria from multiplying until the bacteria have gone through several generations of growth.

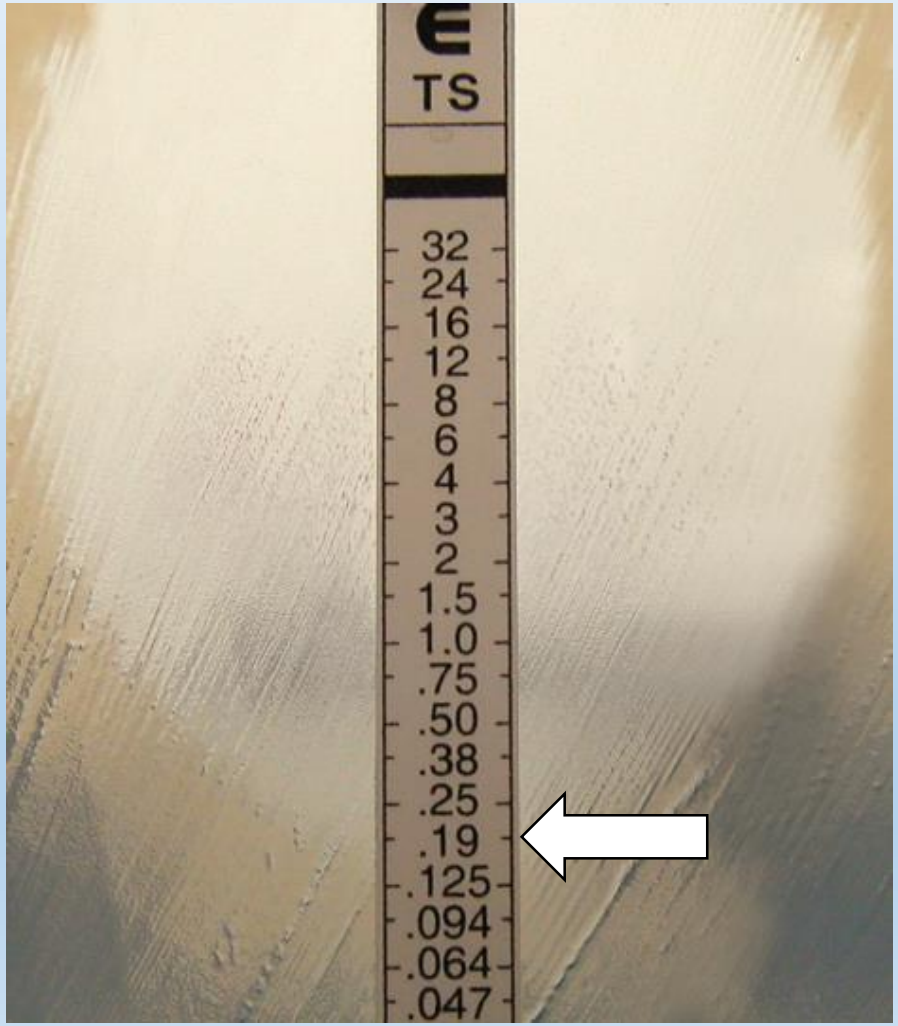
You may see a light haze of growth within the zone. Measure the zone at the point where there is an 80% reduction in growth.





Interpreting Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (TS) ETEST MIC

An 80% reduction of growth should also be applied to MIC interpretation from the ETEST. In this example, the intersection where there is 80% reduction of growth is 0.19. Ignore the haze in the ellipse. The MIC should be reported as 0.25 (nearest 2-fold dilution).



Reporting SXT Resistance

- SXT-resistance is uncommon for some organisms.
  - 1% of our *S. aureus* isolates
  - 1-3% of our *S. maltophilia* isolates
  - 5-6% of our *Enterobacter* isolates
  - 4-6% of our *K. pneumoniae* isolates
  - 4-8% of our *K. oxytoca* isolates
- Be careful not to falsely report resistance. If you are having trouble interpreting disk diffusion or ETEST results, please consult Rounds.