

**Document Name: Oral Culture**

**Approved By:**

Jennifer G. Daley Bernier, A/ Manager, Laboratory Services

**Status: APPROVED**

**PURPOSE:**

To determine the presence or absence of yeast infections (thrush) in oral specimens.

**SAMPLE INFORMATION:**

<b>Type</b>	Swab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amie's with or without charcoal</li> </ul>
<b>Source</b>	Mouth or tongue
<b>Stability</b>	If the sample is received in the laboratory and processed greater than 48 h from collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add specimen quality comment: "Delayed transport may adversely affect pathogen recovery"</li> </ul>
<b>Storage Requirements</b>	Room temperature
<b>Criteria for rejection and follow up action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlabeled/mislabeled swabs</li> <li>Dry swabs</li> </ol>

**NOTE:** This is a controlled document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against electronic version prior to use.

**REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:**

- Sabouraud Dextrose (SAB) agar

**SUPPLIES:**

- Wooden sticks
- Disposable inoculation needles
- Microscope slides
- Vitek 2 and supplies

**SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

Containment Level 2 facilities, equipment, and operational practices for work involving infectious or potential infectious materials or cultures.


- Lab gown must be worn when performing activities with potential pathogens.
- Gloves must be worn when direct skin contact with infected materials is unavoidable.
- Eye protection must be used when there is a known or potential risk of exposure of splashes.
- All procedures that may produce aerosols, or involve high concentrations or large volumes should be conducted in a biological safety cabinet (BSC).
- The use of needles, syringes and other sharp objects should be strictly limited.

All patient specimens are assumed to be potentially infectious. Universal precautions must be followed. Since viable micro-organisms are used, all cultures must be handled with appropriate precautions. All equipment in contact with cultures should be decontaminated by appropriate methods.

**QUALITY CONTROL:**

- Refer to Quality Control manual for reagent quality control procedures.

**PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Step	Action
<b>Processing Swabs for Oral Culture</b>	
1	In the biosafety cabinet, inoculate Sabouraud Dextrose agar.
2	Streak for isolated growth using a disposable inoculation needle.  <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> Streak out to cover the whole plate.
3	Incubate SAB plate at room temperature for 48 hours. Write on plate the date of the 48 hour read.
4	Examine plates after 48 hours incubation. Record your observations in the LIS.

**INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:**

1	After 48 hours, examine plates for white, creamy colonies resembling yeast.
2	If colonies resembling yeast are observed, perform Wet Prep to confirm growth is yeast. If wet prep is positive for yeast, set up Vitek YST-ID card.
3	If no colonies resembling yeast are observed or wet prep is negative for yeast, work up is complete.

**REPORTING RESULTS:**

	IF	REPORT
1	No Yeast Isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report: <b>“No Yeast Isolated”</b>.</li> </ul>
2	Yeast Isolated, Vitek YST-ID Candida albicans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report: <b>“Candida albicans”</b>.</li> <li>List quantitation.</li> </ul>
3	Yeast Isolated, Vitek YST-ID not Candida albicans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report: <b>“Yeast, not Candida albicans”</b>.</li> <li>List quantitation.</li> </ul>

**NOTE:** This is a controlled document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against electronic version prior to use.

**REFERENCES:**

- Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, ASM Press, 2016
- Jorgensen J.H., Pfaller M.A., Carroll K.C., Funke G., Landry M.L., Richter S.S., Warnock D.W. 2015. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, ASM Press, Washington, D.C.

**REVISION HISTORY:**

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	06-NOV-17	Initial Release	L. Steven