

Document Name: Oral Culture

Approved By:

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Status: **APPROVED**

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

SAMPLE INFORMATION:

Type	Swab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amie's with or without charcoal
Source	Mouth or tongue
Stability	If the sample is received in the laboratory and processed greater than 48 hours from collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add specimen quality comment: "Delayed transport may adversely affect pathogen recovery"
Storage Requirements	Room temperature
Criteria for rejection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unlabeled/mislabeled swabs. 2. Specimen container label does not match patient identification on requisition. 3. Dry swabs.

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REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:

- Sabouraud Dextrose (SAB) agar

SUPPLIES:

- Disposable inoculation needles
- Biosafety cabinet
- Microscope slides
- Wooden sticks
- 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 Test Manual for reagent quality control procedures.

PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:

Step	Action
Processing swabs for oral culture	
1	In the biosafety cabinet, inoculate Sabouraud Dextrose agar.
2	<p>Streak for isolated growth using a disposable inoculation needle:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Streak out to cover the whole plate.</p>
3	<p>Incubate SAB plate at room temperature for 48 hours. Write on plate the date of the 48 hour read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R (for read) followed by the read date (48 hours from day of planting)
4	Examine plates after 48 hours incubation and record observations in the LIS.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

Step	Action	
1	After 48 hours, examine plates for white, creamy colonies resembling yeast.	
2	IF	THEN
	Colonies resembling yeast are NOT seen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workup complete. • Yeast not isolated.
	Colonies resembling yeast are seen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform wet prep.
	IF	THEN
	Wet prep is negative for yeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workup complete. • Yeast not isolated.
Wet prep is positive for yeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform Vitek 2 YST card. 	

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REPORTING RESULTS:

IF	REPORT
No Yeast Isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report: “No Yeast Isolated”
Yeast Isolated, Vitek YST - Candida albicans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report: “Candida albicans” List quantitation.
Yeast Isolated, Vitek YST – not Candida albicans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report: “Yeast, not Candida albicans” List quantitation.

REFERENCES:

- Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 4th 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, 11th edition, ASM Press, Washington, D.C.

REVISION HISTORY:

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	06-NOV-17	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	30 Nov 2018	Updated to include new Vitek 2 instrument	L. Steven

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