

PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedure – Laboratory Services	
Title: MIC51300 – Catarrhalis Disk Test	Policy Number:
Program Name: Laboratory Services	
Applicable Domain: Lab, DI and Pharmacy Services	
Additional Domain(s):	
Effective Date:	Next Review Date:
Issuing Authority: Director of Health Services	Date Approved:
Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: N/A	

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

The catarrhalis disk test is used to presumptively identify *Moraxella catarrhalis*.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

This standard operating procedure describes how to perform the catarrhalis disk test.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This procedure applies to Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) performing the catarrhalis disk test.

SAMPLE INFORMATION:

Type	Few, well isolated colonies that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxidase positive • Gram-negative diplococci
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REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:

Type	remel Catarrhalis Test Disk
Stability and Storage Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at 2°C to 8°C • Allow to come to room temperature before use • Do not incubate prior to use • Protect disks from moisture by removing from the vial only those disks necessary for testing • Promptly replace the cap and return the vial to 2°C to 8°C

SUPPLIES:

- Forceps
- Glass microscope slides
- Wooden sticks
- Disposable loops

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SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

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

- Ensure that appropriate hand hygiene practices be used.
- 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. Routine Practices 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:

- Quality control is performed weekly:
 - Positive: *Moraxella catarrhalis* ATCC 25240
 - Negative: *Streptococcus agalactiae* ATCC 12386
- A TQC order is automatically generated on Wednesdays to record the QC results

PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:

Step	Action
Performing the catarrhalis disk test	
1	Perform gram stain and oxidase test on isolate prior to performing test. Test only oxidase positive, gram-negative diplococci.
2	Using sterile forceps, place the catarrhalis disk on a glass microscope slide. Do not rehydrate the disk.
3	Rub several colonies (a visible inoculum) across the disk using a wooden applicator stick.
4	Allow up to two minutes for colour change to occur.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

IF	THEN
Blue-green colour development within 2 minutes	Catarrhalis disk = Positive
No colour development within 2 minutes	Catarrhalis disk = Negative

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LIMITATIONS:

1. This test is only part of the overall scheme for identification.
2. Many strains of other *Moraxella* spp., as well as *Eikenella* and *Acinetobacter*, may give a positive or weakly positive reaction. The organism must be oxidase-positive, Gram-negative diplococcus with typical morphology to be accurately identified as *M.catarrhalis*.
3. Unrelated organisms such as *Staphylococci* and pseudomonads may also give positive results.
4. False-negative tests may result from using too small of an inoculum.
5. Product should not be used if the colour has changed from white, the expiration date has passed, the desiccant has changed from blue to pink or there are other signs of deterioration.

REFERENCES:

1. remel. (2014-04). *Catarrhalis Test Disk* package insert

APPROVAL:

Date

REVISION HISTORY:

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	05 Apr 19	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	30 Jun 21	Procedure reviewed and added to NTHSSA policy template	L. Steven