CO2 POUCHES

☒ St. Joseph Medical Center, Tacoma, WA	☒ St. Anthony Hospital Gig Harbor, WA	☐ Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, WA
☒ St. Francis Hospital, Federal Way, WA	☒ St. Elizabeth Hospital Enumclaw, WA	☐ Harrison Medical Center, Silverdale, WA
☒ St. Clare Hospital Lakewood, WA	☒ Highline Medical Center Burien, WA	☐ PSC

PURPOSE

To provide instructions for the use of CO2 pouches to provide the correct atmospheric conditions for the growth of organisms.

BACKGROUND

The GasPak EZ CO2 pouch is a single use disposable gas generating system for capnophilic bacteria. It is designed to produce conditions suitable for the cultivation of fastidious organisms such as Haemophilus or Neisseria. The atmospheric oxygen in the bag is rapidly absorbed with the simultaneous generation of carbon dioxide. No catalyst or water is needed for the reaction to proceed.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Media Inoculation and Culture Setup R-W-MB-1104

SUPPLIES

GasPak EZ CO2 Gas pouch system (20/box), store at room temperature.

STEPS

1. Use the CO2 pouch to incubate all plates other than urine, stool cultures or tubed media. Use the anaerobic pouches for anaerobic cultures.

2. Inoculate the plate with a swab or fluid. Streak for isolation.

3. Place the plates into the pouch bag. Four plates can fit into each bag.

4. Tear open the outer foil of the sachet being careful to not tear the sachet itself.

5. Remove the paper sachet from the foil bag and place into the pouch bag. Do not cover the label on the plate with the sachet.

6. Close the pouch by pressing the zipper part of the pouch together.
   NOTE: make sure the bag is securely sealed. The time between opening the sachet and sealing the pouch bag should not exceed one minute.

7. Place bag into the 35-37˚C non-CO2 incubator. Transport bag to SJMC Microbiology Department.

8. When the bag is received at SJMC, check the bag indicator for the correct reaction (indicator should be white), indicating the CO2 conditions have been met to greater than 3% carbon dioxide inside the bag. Enter results daily into Unity.

9. Take the plates out of the bag, discard bag. Bags and generators are one time use only and should not be reused.

10. Place plates into the CO2 incubator.

QUALITY CONTROL

1. Quality control will be performed with each new lot and/or shipment. Testing will be performed at SJMC Microbiology department. Send bag to SJMC.

2. Growth of Neisseria gonorrhoeae ATCC 19424 will be used to check for correct performance of the sachets. Sub the organism weekly onto Chocolate agar and document in the weekly QC log.

3. If growth does not occur, repeat. If growth still does not occur, the organism may be non-viable. Sub a QC organism that has been stored in the -70˚C freezer. If growth still does not occur, remove the sachets from service, call the vendor. Do not use for patient samples.

LIMITATIONS

1. Avoid direct sunlight or excessive temperatures

2. Do not use if outer foil is damaged or open in any way.

3. Sachets generate a small amount of heat during the reaction, allow to cool before discarding.

REFERENCES

Product insert, BD GasPak EZ CO2 gas Generating Pouch System, 2010

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