**Intended Use**

**BBL™ Port-A-Cul™** vials contain a reduced transport medium and are intended to maintain the viability of anaerobic, facultative and aerobic microorganisms during transport from the patient to the laboratory.

Anaerobic microorganisms require special transport methods to prevent even brief exposure to oxygen.

**Port-A-Cul** Vials are for fluid specimens. Fluid specimens are injected directly onto the solid agar surface.

Fluid specimens are protected from air in a **Port-A-Cul** vial because of the anaerobic atmosphere and exchange of reducing agents from the solid medium to the specimen.

**Reagents**

**Port-A-Cul** medium - balanced formula of reducing agents and resazurin in a buffered isotonic agar base.

This product contains dry natural rubber.

**Materials & Supplies**

**Port-A-Cul** vial transport device

Syringes and needles

Alcohol wipe or other disinfectant.

**Product Storage**

On receipt, store at 20 – 25°C. Media stored as labeled until just prior to use may be inoculated up to the expiration date and transported for the recommended transportation times.

**Product Deterioration:** Do not use if medium shows evidence of contamination, drying, cracking or other signs of deterioration. **Do not use if a pink or blue band at the top of the medium is deeper than 3 mm**, as this is indicative of excessive oxidation.

**Specimen Collection and Transport**

For use with fluid specimens, up to 5ml.

Follow accepted specimen collection practices.

Do not culture body sites normally contaminated with indigenous flora.

1. Remove green flip cap exposing rubber stopper.
2. Swab rubber stopper with disinfectant such as an alcohol wipe.
3. Aseptically obtain specimen, **expel air from syringe and needle**, push needle through stopper and **slowly** inject up to 5ml on surface of agar.
4. Transport to the laboratory promptly at ambient temperatures (20 – 25ºC) within 24 h.

**Criteria for Rejection**

1. Specimens older than 24 hours
2. **The presence of a blue color in the injected fluid indicates the introduction of oxygen. The specimen will be rejected for culture.**
3. Anaerobic cultures from sites normally contaminated with indigenous flora (i.e. feces, sputum,bronchoscopy specimens, colostomy specimens, and voided or catheterized urines)

**Culturing Specimen**

1. Disinfect cap with alcohol wipe.
2. With a sterile needle and syringe, aseptically remove fluid from vial.
3. Culture as per anaerobic fluid culture protocol.
4. Remainder of fluid may be injected into blood culture bottle.

**Warnings and Precautions**

For *in vitro* Diagnostic Use.

This product contains dry natural rubber.

**BBL Port-A-Cul** is for single use only; reuse may cause a risk of infection and/or inaccurate results.

Pathogenic microorganisms, including hepatitis viruses and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, may be present in clinical specimens. "Standard Precautions" and institutional guidelines should be followed in handling all items contaminated with blood and other body fluids. Discard contaminated materials after use in

appropriate biohazard waste container.

**Limitations of the Procedure**

For best results, specimens should be transported to the laboratory as quickly as possible, but no longer than 24 h. Overgrowth may occur with polymicrobial infections. Avoid temperature extremes during transport. Organisms in small numbers (< 100 CFU/mL) may not survive longer than 24 h.

**Reference**

BD BBL Port-A-Cul Specimen Collection and Transport Products, Becton, Dickenson and Company, 7 Loveton circle, Sparks, MD 211521. 8830161JAA, 2010/01

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