

BD BBL™ Taxo™ Discs for Differentiation of Group A Streptococci

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8800671JAA(01)
2012-02

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INTENDED USE

Taxo™ A discs are for the presumptive identification of group A beta-hemolytic streptococci based on susceptibility to a low level of bacitracin. Discs are intended for use with pure cultures, with the exception noted under "Specimens."

SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

Taxo A discs are impregnated with a low level of bacitracin. According to the work of Maxted, of Levinson and Frank, and others, the group A streptococci may be differentiated from the other Lancefield groups of hemolytic streptococci by the formation of a zone of inhibition around the disc.¹⁻⁶

PRINCIPLES OF PROCEDURE

Group A beta-hemolytic streptococci are sensitive to small amounts of bacitracin, while beta-hemolytic streptococci of other serologic groups are more resistant. The Taxo A disc on a blood agar plate can be used for presumptive identification of group A beta-hemolytic streptococci after overnight incubation.

REAGENTS

Taxo A discs are impregnated with approximately 0.04 unit of bacitracin per disc.

Warnings and Precautions:

For *in vitro* Diagnostic Use.

Taxo A discs are not for susceptibility testing.

Observe aseptic techniques and established precautions against microbiological hazards throughout all procedures. After use, test plates and other contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding. Directions for use should be read and followed carefully.

Storage Instructions: On receipt, store at -20 to +8°C. After use, store vial or cartridge to protect product integrity at 2 to 8°C.

Use oldest discs first and discard expired discs. Allow containers to come to room temperature before opening. Return unused discs to the refrigerator when application of discs has been completed. Vials and cartridges from which discs have been frequently removed during one week and discs left out overnight in the laboratory should be discarded, or the discs should be tested for performance with control organisms prior to continued use.

SPECIMENS

Taxo A discs are not for use directly with clinical specimens or other sources containing mixed flora. The organism to be presumptively identified must first be isolated as separate colonies by streaking the specimen onto appropriate culture media; e.g., Trypticase™ Soy Agar with 5% Sheep Blood (TSA II). However, the BBL™ Group A Selective Strep Agar with 5% Sheep Blood (ssA™) plate, which may be used for the primary isolation of group A streptococci from throat specimens, was designed specifically for use with the Taxo A disc.⁷

PROCEDURE

Material Provided: Taxo A Discs.

Materials Required But Not Provided: Ancillary culture media, quality control organisms and laboratory equipment as required for this procedure.

Test Procedure

1. Inoculate a Trypticase Soy Agar with 5% Sheep Blood plate with the test organism exhibiting beta-hemolysis on the primary isolation plate. If the plate is inoculated with a suspension, it should be adjusted to provide just confluent growth over the surface of the plate. With sterile forceps or single disc dispenser place the Taxo A disc in the center of the inoculated area. If the organism is streak-inoculated, the disc should be placed in the primary streak area or at the junction of the primary and secondary streak area. For further information regarding the use of the Taxo A disc with ssA, consult ssA product literature.
2. Incubate plate(s) in ambient air (or in an atmosphere enriched with 5 to 10% CO₂) at 35 to 37°C for 18 to 24 hours.
3. Observe plate for presence of a zone of growth inhibition around the bacitracin disc.

User Quality Control: At the time of use, check performance with pure cultures of stable control organisms producing known, desired reactions. The use of *Streptococcus pyogenes* ATCC™ 12384 is recommended to demonstrate zone formation. One or more beta-hemolytic streptococcal species belonging to groups B, C, D and/or G may be employed to demonstrate lack of zone formation.

Quality control requirements must be performed in accordance with applicable local, state and/or federal regulations or accreditation requirements and your laboratory's standard Quality Control