

Specification

Selective medium for the isolation of pathogenic staphylococci, according to the Pharmacopoeial Harmonized Methodology and Clinical samples.

Presentation

	Packaging Details	Shelf Life	Storage
30 Contact Plates Contact Plates - Double Wrapping with: 15 ± 2 ml	1 box with 5 blisters (PET laminated and PPBO bag) with 6 contact plates/blister.	7 months	2-25 °C

Composition

Composition (g/l):	
Beef extract.....	1.000
Pancreatic digest of casein.....	5.000
Peptic digest of meat.....	5.000
Sodium chloride.....	75.000
D-Mannitol.....	10.000
Phenol red.....	0.025
Agar.....	15.000

Description /Technique

Description

Mannitol Salt Agar is a classical medium for the detection and enumeration of staphylococci. It was described by Chapman and has been adopted by many official organisations. Several modifications of it have been developed, all formulations resulting in media with similar efficiency.

This medium takes advantage of the high saline tolerance of staphylococci, and uses sodium chloride as a selective agent. Only staphylococci and halophilic enterobacteria are able to grow freely at the concentration of salt employed in this medium, while other bacteria are inhibited. It also exploits the correlation between the pathogenicity of staphylococci and their ability ferment mannitol. Mannitol fermentation results in an accumulation of acid products, indicated by the phenol red indicator turning yellow. A yellow halo surrounds the presumptive pathogenic colonies, while the rest of the medium remains red/orange in colour.

Technique

Contact plates are used in the microbiological control of disinfection and cleaning of surfaces. It acts simultaneously as a sampler and incubation culture medium without the need for any other intermediate steps.

The plates come in a form appropriate for this function and can be used with different culture media depending on the type of microbe that needs to be controlled. On average the plates provide a contact surface of approximately 25 cm².

To use, remove the cover and gently press the culture medium on the surface to be controlled, ensuring contact between the two surfaces. The Contact plate is removed and covered with the lid to prevent air contamination. It is advisable that the lid is secured with adhesive tape and the bottom labelled with the sampling data (place, date and time).

If the sample surfaces are rough, the contact plates will not make good contact, even when the pressure is increased. In these cases it is advisable to delineate an sample surface area of 25 cm squared and rub this area vigorously with a wet sterile swab and then rub the swab over the Contact plate.

If verifying the effectiveness of a cleaning or disinfection process, contact plates should be used within two hours after the end of the process, ensuring that the sample surface is dry. It is advisable to always include positive controls, sampling the area before disinfection or dirty areas beside the disinfected area.

The technician will determine the frequency of sampling and disinfection according to performance criteria. Apply the agar directly onto surface to be monitored ensuring that the pressure is distributed over the whole plate for 10 seconds. Clean the surface where the sample was collected in order to remove any traces of agar.

Inoculate the plates and incubate at 37 °C for 36 hours or at 30-35 °C for 3 days.

The typical appearance of the colonies after the correct incubation is as follows:

- Presumptive pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase +) are mannitol positive and produce large colonies with a yellow halo.
- Non-pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase -) are usually mannitol negative and produce small colonies without a halo or change in colour.

Coagulase presence must be tested by the classical technique in order to establish its true pathogenic potential.

Note:

*According to the methodology chosen by the laboratory (Pharmacopeia or other international standards), may be slight variations in incubation times and temperatures, as well as inhibition of *E. coli*, which can be variable depending on the inoculated bacterial population. This medium can normally reduce the bacterial load by up to 3 decimal logarithms.

*Contact plates are used for monitoring the microbiological contamination of surface and air inside cleanrooms, isolators, RABS, food industries and hospitals. The double/triple irradiated wrapping ensures that the package itself doesn't contaminate the environment as the first wrapper is removed just before entering the clean area.

The plates must be kept in their original packaging (blisters) to guarantee their stability at the end of their expiration date.

Quality control

Physical/Chemical control

Color : Strongly pink

pH: 7.4 ± 0.2 at 25°C

Microbiological control

Inoculate with 10-100 CFU according to harmonized Pharmacopoeia or with 100-1000 CFU for selectivity.

Analytical methodology according to ISO 11133:2014/A1:2018; A2:2020.

Aerobiosis. Incubation at 30-35°C. Reading at 18-72h

Microbiological control according to ISO 11133:2014/A1:2018; A2:2020.

Microorganism

Stph. epidermidis ATCC® 12228, WDCM 00036

Escherichia coli ATCC® 8739, WDCM 00012

Staphylococcus aureus ATCC® 6538, WDCM 00032

Stph. aureus ATCC® 25923, WDCM 00034

Growth

Good

Inhibited

Good (≥ 50%). White colonies. Yellow medium.

Good (≥ 50%). White colonies. Yellow medium.

Sterility Control

Incubation 48 h at 30-35 °C and 48 h at 20-25 °C: NO GROWTH.

Check at 7 days after incubation in same conditions.

Bibliography

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