Vaginalis Agar Base with supplement is used for qualitative isolation and differentiation of *Gardnerella vaginalis* from clinical specimens.

**Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Gms / Litre</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casein enzymic hydrolysate</td>
<td>12.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peptic digest of animal tissue</td>
<td>15.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef extract</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeast extract</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn starch</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agar</td>
<td>13.500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final pH (at 25°C) 7.4±0.2

*Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters*

**Directions**

Suspend 52.5 grams in 950 ml distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Dispense in 95 ml amounts and sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to around 50-55°C and aseptically add 5 ml of sterile anticoagulated human blood to every 95 ml sterile basal medium. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

**Principle And Interpretation**

*Gardnerella vaginalis* is a facultatively anaerobic gram-variable rod. It has been demonstrated to cause a wide variety of infections; however, it is most commonly recognized for its role as one of the organisms responsible for bacterial vaginosis (BV). BV is the most common cause of vaginitis and the most common infection encountered in the outpatient gynaecological setting. Originally Ellner et al (1) developed a blood agar namely Columbia Agar for rapid growth of the haemolytic organisms with improved pigmentation and defined haemolytic reactions. Greenwood et al (2) further modified this medium by increasing the peptone concentration and used human blood instead of sheep blood for the isolation and differentiation of *G. vaginalis* based on beta haemolysis (3, 4). Vaginalis Agar Base is used for the isolation of *G. vaginalis* from vaginal discharges (5). Peptic digest of animal tissue, casein enzymic hydrolysate, yeast extract and beef extract provide nitrogenous compounds, carbon, sulphur, vitamin B complex and trace ingredients required for growth. Cornstarch serves as the energy source. Blood supplies additional nutrients and also aids in identification.

Typical colonies of *G. vaginalis* appear small and white coloured. This medium is recommended for determination of haemolytic reaction of *G. vaginalis* and not for other microorganisms. If the specimen is suspected to contain streptococci or other haemolytic microorganisms, then a Soyabean Casein Digest Agar (with 5% v/v sheep blood) plate should be inoculated parallel to this medium to ensure the haemolytic reaction.

**Quality Control**

**Appearance**
Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

**Gelling**
Firm, comparable with 1.35% Agar gel.

**Colour and Clarity of prepared medium**
Basal medium: Yellow coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel. After addition of 5% v/v sterile anticoagulated human blood, cherry red coloured, opaque gel forms in Petri plates.

**Reaction**
Reaction of 5.25% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.4±0.2

**pH**
7.20-7.60

**Cultural Response**
M1057: Cultural characteristics observed in an aerobic atmosphere containing 3-10% CO2 with added 5% v/v sterile anticoagulated human blood after an incubation at 35-37°C for 48 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Haemolysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gardnerella vaginalis ATCC</strong></td>
<td>good-luxuriant</td>
<td>beta (diffused)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Storage and Shelf Life**
Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 2 - 8°C. Use before expiry date on the label.

**Reference**

**Disclaimer:**
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