**HiCrome™ VRE Agar Base**  

**Intended Use**  
It is a selective media used for the isolation of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) from clinical specimens.

**Composition**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Gms / Litre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peptone special</td>
<td>25.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromogenic mixture</td>
<td>0.450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffering agent</td>
<td>1.250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt mixture</td>
<td>4.250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agar</td>
<td>15.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final pH (at 25°C)</td>
<td>6.5±0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions**  
Suspend 50.95 grams in 1000 ml purified/distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to 45-50°C and aseptically add the rehydrated contents of two vials of HiCrome™ VRE Agar Supplement (FD277). Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

**Principle And Interpretation**  
 Enterococci are the common habitants of the normal flora residing in the intestines of mammals (3). Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci are the group of Enterococci that have developed resistance towards many antibiotics particularly vancomycin. Enterococcal infections that result in human disease can be fatal, particularly those caused by strains of vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) (4). Early detection of VRE is important to prevent the emergence of vancomycin resistant in *Enterococcus faecalis*.

VRE can be transmitted from person to person, especially in a hospital or chronic-care facility. Microscopic amounts of fecal material from an infected or colonized patient can contaminate the hospital environment and be a reason for the spread of infection. There are many traditional media for the detection of VRE which includes Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci Broth Base/Agar or Bile Esculin Agar supplemented with vancomycin.

Peptone special in the medium supplies nitrogenous and carbonaceous compounds, long chain amino acids, vitamins and other necessary nutrients required for the growth of microorganisms. Sodium chloride maintains the osmotic balance. Buffering agents provides buffering to the medium. *Enterococcus faecalis* cleaves the chromogenic substrate in the medium to produce blue coloured colonies, which are clearly visible against the opaque background. The supplement added to the medium allows the selective isolation of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci. This medium can be inoculated directly from screening swab, isolated colony prepared as a liquid suspension approximately equivalent to 0.5 McFarland turbidity.

**Type of specimen**  
Clinical samples - faecal sample

**Specimen Collection and Handling**  
For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines (1,2). After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

**Warning and Precautions**  
In Vitro diagnostic Use only. Read the label before opening the container. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection. Follow good microbiological lab practices while handling specimens and culture. Standard precautions as per established guidelines should be followed while handling clinical specimens. Safety guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets.
**Limitations**
1. Some intermediate species may show poor growth due to nutritional variations and tolerance to vancomycin.
2. Slight colour variation may be observed depending upon the utilization of the substrate by the organism.
3. Interspecies differentiation between *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Enterococcus faecium* cannot be confirmed.
4. Further confirmation has to be carried using sensitivity testing.

**Performance and Evaluation**
Performance of the medium is expected when used as per the direction on the label within the expiry period when stored at recommended temperature.

**Quality Control**

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

**Gelling**
Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel.

**Colour and Clarity of prepared medium**
Off white coloured opaque gel forms in Petri plates.

**Reaction**
Reaction of 5.1% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 6.5±0.2

**pH**
6.30-6.70

**Cultural Response**
Cultural characteristics observed with added HiCrome™ VRE Agar Supplement (FD277), after an incubation at 35-37°C for 24-48 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Inoculum (CFU)</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Colour of colony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Enterococcus faecalis</em> (VRE)</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=50%</td>
<td>bluish green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATCC 51299 (00085*)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Enterococcus faecalis</em> ATCC</td>
<td>&gt;=10^4</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29212 (00087*)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Staphylococcus aureus</em> subsp.</td>
<td>&gt;=10^4</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>aureus</em> ATCC 25923 (00034*)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key : (*) Corresponding WDCM numbers.

**Storage and Shelf Life**
Store dehydrated the prepared medium at 2-8°C. Use before expiry date on the label. On opening, product should be properly stored dry, after tightly capping the bottle in order to prevent lump formation due to the hygroscopic nature of the product. Improper storage of the product may lead to lump formation. Store in dry ventilated area protected from extremes of temperature and sources of ignition. Seal the container tightly after use. Use before expiry date on the label. Product performance is best if used within stated expiry period.

**Disposal**
User must ensure safe disposal by autoclaving and/or incineration of used or unusable preparations of this product. Follow established laboratory procedures in disposing of infectious materials and material that comes into contact with clinical sample must be decontaminated and disposed of in accordance with current laboratory techniques (1,2).

**Reference**

*Please refer disclaimer Overleaf.*

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In vitro diagnostic medical device

CE Marking

Storage temperature

2°C – 8°C

Do not use if package is damaged

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