BHI Agar (Special Infusion Agar)

**Intended Use:**
Recommended for the cultivation of fastidious pathogenic bacteria, yeasts and moulds from clinical and non clinical samples.

**Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Gms / Litre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HM infusion powder #</td>
<td>12.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHI powder</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteose peptone</td>
<td>10.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dextrose (Glucose)</td>
<td>2.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disodium hydrogen phosphate</td>
<td>2.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agar</td>
<td>15.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final pH ( at 25°C)</td>
<td>7.4±0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions**
Suspend 52.0 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. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates. If desired, 20 units Penicillin and 40 µg Streptomycin per ml of medium may be added to make the medium selective for fungi.

**Principle And Interpretation**

Brain Heart Infusion Agar is highly nutritious and can support luxuriant growth of wide variety of microorganisms. It can be further enriched by the addition of blood or rendered selective by adding different antibiotics (8, 2). It is a general purpose medium used for primary isolation of aerobic bacteria from clinical specimens. Addition of 50 mg/l chloramphenicol or 40mg/l streptomycin or a mixture of 50mg/l gentamicin and 50mg/l chloramphenicol along with 5-10% sterile defibrinated blood is often recommended for inhibition of bacteria and isolation of pathogenic systemic fungi. A mixture of cycloheximide (0.5 g/l) and chloramphenicol (0.05 g/l) is also used for selective isolation of pathogenic fungi (incubation at 25-30°C for 1-2 weeks) (6). Some fungi may be inhibited on this medium with 10% sheep blood, gentamicin and chloramphenicol (3,7,1). Proteose peptone and infusions used in the media serves as sources of carbon, nitrogen, vitamins, amino acids, along with essential growth factors. Dextrose is the energy source. Sodium chloride maintains the osmotic equilibrium of the medium while disodium phosphate buffers the medium. Defibrinated sheep blood added to the basal medium provides essential growth factors for the more fastidious fungal organisms.

**Type of specimen**
Clinical samples -blood.

**Specimen Collection and Handling**
For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines (4,5). 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.

Please refer disclaimer Overleaf.
Limitations

1. As organisms differ in their nutritional requirements, some fastidious organisms may be inhibited or may show poor growth.
2. Further biochemical tests must be carried out for complete identification.

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
Basal medium: Light amber coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel. After addition of 5% v/v sterile defibrinated blood: Cherry red coloured, opaque gel forms in Petri plates.

Reaction
Reaction of 5.2% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH: 7.4±0.2

pH
7.20-7.60

Cultural Response
Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35-37°C for 18-24 hours (If desired add 5% v/v sterile defibrinated blood).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Inoculum (CFU)</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Growth w/ blood</th>
<th>Recovery w/ blood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candida albicans ATCC 26790</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus ATCC 25923 (00034*)</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcus pneumoniae ATCC 6303</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigella flexneri ATCC 12022 (00126*)</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escherichia coli ATCC 25922 (00013*)</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
<td>luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key: *Corresponding WDCM numbers.

Storage and Shelf Life

Store between 10-30°C in a tightly closed container and 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 (4,5).

Reference


In vitro diagnostic medical device

CE Marking

Storage temperature

10°C
30°C

Do not use if package is damaged

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EC REP

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