**Intended Use:**
Recommended for selective isolation of *Clostridium difficile* from food and certain pathological specimens.

**Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Gms / Litre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proteose peptone</td>
<td>40.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disodium hydrogen phosphate</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium dihydrogen phosphate</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium sulphate</td>
<td>0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride</td>
<td>2.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fructose</td>
<td>6.000</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 34.55 grams in 500 ml purified / distilled water. Heat gently to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to 45-50°C. Aseptically add rehydrated contents of 1 vial of Clostridium Difficile Supplement (FD010) together with 7% (v/v) defibrinated Horse blood or Sheep blood. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

**Principle And Interpretation**

The spectrum of disease caused by *Clostridium difficile* (a pathogenic *Clostridium* affecting the bowel) ranges from pseudomembranous colitis (PMC) through antibiotic associated colitis (AAC). It also includes chronic inflammatory bowel diseases, post-operative diarrhoea and non-antibiotic associated diarrhoea (1). Smith and King (6) first reported the presence of *C. difficile* in human infections. George et al (2) recommended the use of a fructose-containing medium with egg yolk for the isolation of *C. difficile* from faecal specimens. The medium was made inhibitory to the accompanying flora by the addition of the selective agents namely, D-cycloserine and cefoxitin. This medium does not contain neutral red indicator, as in the original formulation, as it is recommended for use with sheep or horse blood (2). Clostridium Difficile Agar Base is used for the primary isolation of *C. difficile* from faecal specimens. The medium composition is designed so as to obtain luxuriant growth of *C. difficile*. The selective agents D-cycloserine and cefoxitin used in the medium inhibit the growth of majority of Enterobacteriaceae and also Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococci, gram-negative anaerobic bacilli and Clostridium species other than *C. difficile*, which may be found abundantly in faecal samples. Addition of 7% v/v horse blood to the base increases the recovery of *C. difficile* and also increases its colony size.

Spread a part of the faecal sample on the medium to obtain isolated colonies. Incubate the plates anaerobically at 37°C for 18 - 48 hours. *C. difficile* forms grayish white, irregular, raised and opaque colonies, 4-6 mm in diameter, after 48 hours. Typical gram stain morphology of *C. difficile* may not be seen in colonies taken from this medium due to the presence of antibiotics. Subculture on Blood Agar (M073) to obtain characteristic morphology. *C. difficile* colonies will not exhibit the typical fluorescence and colour of colony on this medium whereas other Clostridia can give fluorescence. Therefore, for complete identification and confirmation, other tests like gram staining, morphology, biochemicals, specific cytotoxin and clinical observation should be carried out.

**Type of specimen**
Clinical samples - Stool sample; Food samples.
Specimen Collection and Handling:
For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines (3,4). For food samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection and processing as per guidelines (5). After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

Warning and Precautions:
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 specimens. Safety guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets.

Limitations:
1. Further biochemical and serological tests must be carried out for further 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 7% v/v defibrinated horse blood: Cherry red coloured, opaque gel forms in Petri plates.

Reaction
Reaction of 6.91% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.4±0.2

pH
7.20-7.60

Cultural Response
Cultural characteristics observed under anaerobic condition with added Clostridium Difficile Supplement(FD010) and 7% v/v defibrinated horse blood, after an incubation at 35-37°C for 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>Clostridium difficile</em> ATCC 11204</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>good-luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=50%</td>
<td>greyish-white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Shigella flexneri</em> ATCC 12022</td>
<td>&gt;=10⁴</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Escherichia coli</em> ATCC 25922</td>
<td>&gt;=10⁴</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Staphylococcus aureus</em> ATCC 25923</td>
<td>&gt;=10⁴</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></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 (3,4).
Reference


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