HiCulture™ Transport Swabs w/ Amies Medium w/ Charcoal with metal stick

Recommended for recovery of aerobic, anaerobic and fastidious bacteria from throat, vaginal and wound specimens.

**Directions**

Using the capped swab, provided along with the media containing tube, collect the sample to be transported. Discard the cap of the tube and insert the capped swab with the sample till the bottom of the medium. Tighten the cap firmly. The specimen will be preserved during transportation and also the viability of the organisms will be maintained but it will diminish over the time. Some growth of contaminants may occur during longer period of transport. After the transportation, the specimen should be inoculated in proper medium as soon as possible. The cultures on transport swabs must not be kept at room temperature for more than 24 hours.

**Principle And Interpretation**

Effective recovery of microorganisms and its identification is dependent on a number of factors such as collection and transportation to the laboratory under conditions which allow maintenance of viability. Amies transport medium w/ charcoal is a modification of Stuarts Transport Medium (1,2,3,4). The medium gives improved recovery of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* due to presence of charcoal in the medium. Charcoal neutralizes the toxic effects of material that may hamper growth of pathogens. Addition of inorganic phosphate buffer and sodium chloride make this medium different from Stuarts transport medium. Calcium and magnesium salts control the permeability of bacterial cells. Presence of sodium thioglycollate and small amounts of agar provide a reduced environment. Sterile cotton swabs allow absorption of specimen material while metal shaft allows semiflexibility to the swab stick, aiding in collection.

**Quality Control**

**Appearance**
Sterile Amies medium with charcoal in tubes with metal stick.

**Colour**
Black coloured medium

**Quantity of Medium**
8ml of medium in tubes

**pH**
7.00-7.40

**Sterility test**
Passes release criteria

**Cultural response**
Viability of following organisms was established for a period of 48 hours. Organisms grew luxuriantly when recovered on Tryptone Soya Agar (M290) and incubated at 35 - 37°C for 18-24 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</em></td>
<td>Luxuriant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATCC 27853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Escherichia coli ATCC</em></td>
<td>Luxuriant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25922</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Klebsiella pneumoniae</em></td>
<td>Luxuriant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATCC 13883</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Storage and Shelf Life
Store between 5 – 25°C with caps firmly screwed. DO NOT FREEZE. Use before expiry date on label.

Reference