Neutral Red solution

**Intended Use**
Neutral Red solution is used for Neisser's staining method of metachromatic granules.

**Composition**

**Ingredients**
- Neutral red: 1.000 gm
- Acetic acid: 2.000 ml
- Distilled water: 1000.000 ml

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters**

**Directions**
1) Prepare a smear on a clean, dry glass slide.
2) Allow it to air dry and fix with gentle heat.
3) Stain with Neisser's Methylene Blue (S023) for 3 minutes.
4) Wash off with dilute (1:10 in distilled water) Gram's Iodine Solution (S013) and leave some of this solution on the slide for 1 minute.
5) Wash with water.
6) Counterstain with Neutral Red Solution (S037) for 3 minutes.
7) Wash with water and air dry it and observe under oil immersion objective.

**Principle And Interpretation**
Well developed granules of volutin (polyphosphate) may be seen in unstained wet preparations as round refractile bodies within the bacterial cytoplasm. With basic dye, they tend to stain more strongly than the rest of the bacterium, and with toluidine blue or methylene blue they stain metachromatically, a reddish purple colour. They are demonstrated most clearly by special methods, such as Albert's and Neisser's, which stain them dark purple but the remainder of the bacterium with a contrasting counterstain. The diphtheria bacillus gives its characteristic volutin-staining reactions best in a young culture (18-24 hours) on a blood or serum medium.

**Type of specimen**
Any isolated colony on primary or subculture plates can be isolated from following specimens. Clinical specimen: Blood, urine, CSF, pus, wounds, lesions, body tissues, sputum etc. From environment: Air, water, soil, sludge, waste water, food, dairy samples etc.

**Specimen Collection and Handling**
For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines (4, 5).
For food and dairy samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection and processing as per guidelines (1, 3).
For water samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection, processing as per guidelines and local standards. (2)
Generally the smear is made in laboratory; however, when there is a concern that transport will be delayed or that the preservation for culture will alter the specimen, prepare smear and submit slides to the laboratory.

**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 guidlines should be followed while handling clinical specimens. Safty guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets

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

Appearance
Red coloured solution.

Clarity
Clear without any particles.

Microscopic Examination
Metachromatic staining is carried out where Neutral red is used as counter stain and staining characteristic of organism is observed under microscope by using oil immersion lens.

Results
Metachromatic granules: deep blue
The Organisms: pink coloured.

Storage and Shelf Life
Store between 10 - 30 °C in tightly closed container and away from bright light. Use before expiry date on label. On opening, product should be properly stored in dry ventilated area protected from extremes of temperature and sources of ignition. Seal the container tightly after use.

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 (6,7).

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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