

Wound Culture (Aerobic, Gram Stain) Information Sheet

Overview

MDL Test Name

Wound Culture –

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

- x Cleanse skin or mucosal surfaces. For closed wounds and aspirates, disinfect as for a blood culture collection with 2% chlorhexidine or 70% alcohol followed by an iodine solution. Remove iodine with alcohol prior to specimen collection. For open wounds, debride (if appropriate), and thoroughly rinse with sterile saline prior to collection. Sample viable infected tissue, rather than superficial debris.
- x Gently roll the swab over the wound's surface approximately five times, focusing on the area where there is evidence of pus or inflamed tissue. Abscesses that are closed off and not yet draining externally should be aspirated and the pus (purulent fluid) sent for culture. Aspirate infected material with a needle and syringe.
- x Drainage fluids for culture should not be collected from the bag (due to organism overgrowth), it should be collected by direct aspiration of fluid from the area being drained or by aspiration of fresh fluid in the drainage tube after decontaminating the surface of the device.

Performance

Days Performed

Daily; Monday – Sunday

Report Available (TAT) – (Once received at MDL)

4 – 5 days

Specimen S12 10815 (n)-1tn mm 12 0 7a m

Cautions

- x Antibiotics administered prior to sample collection may negatively affect the recovery of organisms associated with infection. Preferably collect specimen prior to initiation of therapy and only from wounds that are clinically infected or deteriorating or that fail to heal over a long period.
- x Many wound infections are polymicrobial and the isolation of an organism in culture may or may not correlate with infection of the wound.