



Isolation of Group B Streptococcus

As of 1st October 2013 Pathlab has introduced a change in the methodology in Group B Streptococcal (GBS) isolation from reproductive swabs. The new methodology consists of an enrichment step using “Strep B Carrot broth” to the culturing process.

Specimens for Group B isolation

- **Low vaginal and rectal swabs** collected at **35 to 37 weeks** of gestation
- Specimens and request form should be clearly labelled and relevant clinical particulars filled-in on the request form

Strep B Carrot Broth Method

Detection of GBS using Strep B Carrot Broth is based on visualisation of any orange to red pigment after a 6 to 24 hour incubation period. Negative Carrot broths will be sub cultured onto selective chromogenic agar plates and Blood agar, to capture the small percentage of GBS that may not produce the characteristic pigment in the Carrot broth.

Advantages of detecting Group B Streptococcus by this method

- Improved diagnostic efficiency and reduced turnaround time compared to the previous methodology of culturing onto selective chromogenic media
- Improved sensitivity in detection of GBS

Guidance on swab types to use

- The preferred swab type is the blue “Amies agar gel swab”
- Please note that swabs containing charcoal are not suitable for this test

Please contact me if you have any queries in regards to this change

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CLINICAL UPDATE