

# Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture (Aerobic, Anaerobic, and Gram Stain) Information Sheet

## Overview

### **MDL Test Name**

Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture – Aerobic, Anaerobic, and Gram Stain

### **MDL Test Code**

CSF\_CULT\_ANAGS

### **Ask at Order Questions**

- CSF Volume?
- CSF Color?
- CSF Clarity?

### **Specimen Source**

Cerebral Spinal Fluid (specify source/collection method: i.e.: Lumbar puncture, shunt, ventricular shunt, etc.)

## Specimen Requirements

### **Container/Tube**

Sterile Container

### **Specimen Volume (minimum)**

0.5mL

### **Sample Stability Time**

48 hours

### **Transport/Storage Conditions**

Ambient (20 – 25°C); maintain at room temperature

### **Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions**

Collected by health care provider using sterile technique. Contamination with normal flora from skin (or other body surfaces) should be avoided.

## **Performance**

### **Days Performed**

Daily; Monday – Sunday

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

4 – 5 days

### **Specimen Retention Time**

7 days

### **Method Description**

- Conventional aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture technique with non-selective media.
- Identification methods (when appropriate) may include any of the following: conventional biochemical testing, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry, and commercial identification panels.
- Susceptibility testing (when appropriate) may include minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (broth microdilution or gradient strip diffusion) or disk diffusion.

### **Reference Values**

No growth

### **Cautions**

- This order includes anaerobic culture, recommended for patients with predisposing factors to anaerobic meningitis, such as head trauma, prior neurosurgical procedures, or implantable medical devices such as ventriculoperitoneal shunts or ventricular drains.
- False-negative cultures can be caused by low numbers of organisms, prior antimicrobial treatment, or the fastidious nature of the infective organism.
- False-positive cultures can result from contamination of the specimen with skin microbiota.