

Group A Screen by Culture Information Sheet

Overview

MDL Test Name

Group A Screen by Culture

MDL Test Code

GAS

Ask at Order Questions

Does the patient have a penicillin allergy?

Specimen Source

Throat

Specimen Requirements

Container/Tube

ESwab

Specimen Volume (minimum)

- N/A (swab specimen)
- Must have swab present in container

Sample Stability Time

48 hours

Transport/Storage Conditions

- Refrigerated (2 – 8°C)
- Ambient (20 – 25°C)

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

Refer to WSU MDL ESwab Collection Guide

Performance

Days Performed

Daily; Monday – Sunday

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

1 – 3 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

- Conventional aerobic bacterial culture technique, screening for presence or absence only of Group A (*Streptococcus pyogenes*).
- 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.

Reference ValuesNo growth of Group A Strep (*Streptococcus pyogenes*)**Cautions**

- A 'positive' pharyngeal culture for GAS indicates the presence of *S. pyogenes* but does not distinguish between infection and colonization.
- Reports only presence or absence of Group A Streptococcus.