

***Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Culture Information Sheet**

Overview

MDL Test Name

Neisseria gonorrhoeae Culture

MDL Test Code

NG_CULT

Ask at Order Questions

N/A

Specimen Source

- Vaginal
- Endocervical
- Urethral/Penial
- Urethral Discharge
- Vaginal Discharge
- Genital
- Lesion
- Throat

Specimen Requirements

Container/Tube

- ESwab
- ESwab Minitip Flocked Collection Kit (Urogenital)

Specimen Volume (minimum)

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

Sample Stability Time

- 24 hours
- **Please notify MDL if a STAT courier is needed to meet this time.**

Transport/Storage Conditions

- Ambient (20-25°C)
- **DO NOT REFRIGERATE**

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

- Do not collect urethral specimens until at least one hour after urinating. Collection directly from male urethral discharge is desirable.
- Endocervix: Swab endocervical canal. Avoid contaminating swab with vaginal secretions. Cultures from the urethra or vagina are indicated from females when endocervical culture is not possible.
- Urethra: Strip the urethra toward the orifice to express exudate. Use a sterile swab to obtain specimen.
- Vagina: use a speculum, moistened only with warm water, not lubricant. Obtain a specimen from the posterior vaginal vault or from the vaginal orifice.
- Refer to WSU MDL ESwab General Collection Guide

Performance**Days Performed**

Daily; Monday – Sunday

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

3 – 4 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

- Conventional aerobic bacterial culture technique with 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.

Reference Values

No growth of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

Cautions

- Culture is evaluated for presence/absence of *N. gonorrhoeae* only.
- Overgrowth of certain 'normal vaginal flora' may make it impossible to rule out presence of *N. gonorrhoeae*.
- Because of the labile nature of *N. gonorrhoeae*, a negative culture does not rule out infection.