

upon the organisms being tested. *Neisseria* should be incubated with loose caps (10); if incubated in CO₂ incubator (11, 12) or with tight caps in non-CO₂ incubator (13). For more rapid growth and also for more rapid fermentation reactions, anaerobic cultures preferably should be incubated in the presence of CO₂ as well as hydrogen or nitrogen. Some strict anaerobes fail to grow or grow poorly in the absence of CO₂.

A yellow colour either in the upper one-third or throughout the medium indicates acid production due to carbohydrate fermentation. A red (alkaline) to orange (neutral) colour indicates that the carbohydrate has not been degraded and that only the peptone has been utilized. Inoculated medium (without carbohydrate) also exhibits a red to orange colour.

This medium requires a heavy inoculum (7). Prolonged incubation may lead to changes in pH indicator or abnormal lactose/sucrose reactions with *Neisseria* pathogens (8, 9). *Neisseria* species usually produce acid only in the area of stabs (upper third). If there is a strong acid (yellow color) throughout the medium, a contaminating organism may be present. Gram stain and oxidase test should be performed on the growth to confirm the presence of *Neisseria* species (7).

Type of specimen

Pure isolates

Specimen Collection and Handling

For pure isolate samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection, processing as per guidelines and local standards.(3)

After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

Warning and Precautions :

Read the label before opening the container. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/ face protection. Follow good microbiological lab practices while handling specimens and culture. Standard precautions as per established guidelines should be followed while handling specimens. Safety guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets.

Limitations :

1. Lack of sufficient inoculum may lead to false results.
2. Do not inoculate to the bottom of the tube; improper inoculation may lead to weak acid reactions, thus creating difficulty in test interpretation.

Quality Control

Appearance

Light yellow to light pink homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling

Semisolid, comparable with 0.25% Agar gel.

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium

Red coloured, clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in tubes as butts

Reaction

Reaction of 2.85% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.3±0.2

pH

7.10-7.50

Cultural Response

Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35-37°C for 4-18 hours or longer if necessary.

Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Motility	Acid in presence of Dextrose
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 25922	50-100	good-luxuriant	positive, growth away from stabline causing turbidity	positive reaction, yellow colour
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> ATCC 19424	50-100	good	negative, growth along the stabline, surrounding medium remains clear	positive reaction, yellow colour
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> ATCC 13090	50-100	good	negative, growth along the stabline, surrounding medium remains clear	positive reaction, yellow colour
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> ATCC 6303	50-100	good	negative, growth along the stabline, surrounding medium remains clear	positive reaction, yellow colour

Reference

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