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.

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 SDHYx

- Susceptibility testing (when appropriate) may include minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (broth microdilution or gradient strip diffusion) or disk GLIIXLR

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.