

Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture and Gram Stain Information Sheet

Overview

MDL Test Name

Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture and Gram Stain

MDL Test Code

CSF_CULT

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 – 6 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

- Conventional aerobic bacterial culture technique with selective and 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 **does NOT include an anaerobic culture**. If an anaerobic culture is desired, please use order: CSF_CULT_ANAGS (Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture Aerobic, Anaerobic, and Gram Stain).
- 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.