



Antimycotic Sensitivity Test Agar

M1336

Antimycotic Sensitivity Test Agar is used for testing antimycotic sensitivity by diffusion method using antimycotic sensitivity discs.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Casein enzymic hydrolysate	19.000
Yeast extract	10.000
Glucose	20.000
Sodium citrate	10.000
Disodium phosphate	1.000
Agar	25.000
Final pH (at 25°C)	6.6±0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Directions

Suspend 85.0 grams in 1000 ml distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Mix well before pouring into sterile petri plates.

Principle And Interpretation

Technique:

Preparation of Inoculum:

1. Inoculum is prepared by picking five distinct colonies of approximately 1mm from 24 hours old culture grown on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (M063) and incubated at $35 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. Colonies are suspended in 5ml of sterile 0.85% Saline.
2. Vortex the resulting suspension and adjust the turbidity to yield $1 \times 10^6 - 5 \times 10^6$ cells /ml (i.e. 0.5 McFarland standard).

Test Procedure:

1. Prepare plates with Antimycotic sensitivity Test Agar for carrying out susceptibility of antifungal discs. The medium in the plates should be sterile and have a depth of about 4 mm.
2. Dip a sterile non-toxic cotton swab on a wooden applicator into the standardized inoculum (turbidity so adjusted, as to obtain semi confluent growth on the petri plate) and rotate the soaked swab firmly against the upper inside wall of the tube to express excess fluid. Streak the entire agar surface of the plate with the swab three times, turning the plate at 60° angle between each streaking. Allow the inoculum to dry for 5 - 15 minutes with lid in place.
3. Apply the discs using aseptic technique. Deposit the discs with centers at least 24 mm apart.
4. Invert the plates and place in an incubator set to $35 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ within 15 minutes after the discs are applied.
5. Examine each plate after 20 - 24 hours of incubation. If plate was satisfactorily streaked the resulting zones of inhibition will be uniformly circular and there will be a semi-confluent lawn of growth. Read at 48 hours only when insufficient growth is observed after 24 hours incubation.

Antimycotic Sensitivity Test Agar is recommended for testing the antimycotic activity by disc diffusion method (Sensitivity disc or MIC testing). The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (1) has established interpretative break point for three drugs and *Candida* spp. The M44-A document (approved standard) became available in 2004. (2) Espinel-Ingroff (3) suggested that easier test modification to CLSI methods are desirable. Several workers have used agar diffusion method as an alternative approach to the CLSI methods. Stiller et al (4) observed a good correlation between MICs and growth inhibition zones for 5-FC. Pfaller et al (5) found a fluconazole disk test to be comparable to the MIC test. Barry and Brown (6) demonstrated good correlation between fluconazole disk test and MIC determined by

either broth dilution or E Test. Espinel et al (7) and Pfaller et al (8) evaluated E Test and suggested that it correlates well with CLSI reference methods. However this agreement was species and medium dependent and they suggested the need for further optimisation of medium formulation.

The medium contains casein enzymic hydrolysate and yeast extract which provide all essential growth nutrients like amino acids, vitamins, trace elements etc. Glucose serves as energy source. Disodium phosphate buffers the medium well.

Quality Control

Appearance

Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling

Firm, comparable with 2.5% Agar gel.

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium

Amber coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates

Reaction

Reaction of 8.5% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 6.6±0.2

pH

6.40-6.80

Cultural Response

M1336: Average diameter of zone of inhibition observed after an incubation at 25-30°C for 48-72 hours.

Organism	Growth	Zone of inhibition (Amphotericin B 50mcg)	Zone of inhibition (Nystatin 50mcg)	Zone of inhibition (Miconazole 50mcg)	Zone of inhibition (Miconazole 30mcg)	Zone of inhibition (Ketoconazole 50mcg)
Cultural Response						
<i>Candida albicans</i> ATCC 90028	Luxuriant	12 - 15mm	19 - 23mm	26 - 32mm	22-26mm	30 - 37mm
<i>Candida parapsilosis</i> ATCC 22019	11-18mm	13 - 17mm	19 - 23mm	23 - 29mm	13 - 17mm	27 - 33mm

Storage and Shelf Life

Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and use freshly prepared medium. Use before expiry date on the label

Reference

- 1.Rex, J.H. et al 1997 for the Subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing of the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. Clin. Infect. Dis. 24 : 235-247
 - 2.National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. 1997. Reference method for broth dilution antifungal susceptibility testing of yeasts; Approved standard M27-A.
 - 3.Method for Antifungal Disk Diffusion Susceptibility Testing of Yeasts; Approved Guidelines-Second edition Vol.29 No.17, August- 2009 CLSI document M44-A2. For more details refer to this volume
 - 4.Zone Diameter Interpretive Standards, Corresponding Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) Interpretive Breakpoints, and Quality Control Limits for Antifungal Disk Diffusion Susceptibility Testing Of Yeasts, Third International Supplement CLSI document - M44-S3.
- National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, villanova, Pa.
- 5.Espinel –Ingroff et al (1992) J.Clin. Microbiol . 30: 3138-3145
 - 6.Stiller R.L. et al (1983) J.Infec. Dis 147: 1070-1076
 - 7.Pfaller M.A et al (1988) J.Clin.Microbiol 26: 1437-1441
 - 8.Barry A.L. and S.D. Brown. 1996. J. Clin. Microbiol.34:2154-2157

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