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Section: Respiratory Tract Culture Manual	Subject Title: Epiglottal Swabs	
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EPIGLOTTAL SWABS

I. Introduction

Acute epiglottitis is usually caused by *H. influenzae* type b and less commonly by *S. aureus*, Group A streptococcus and viruses.

II. Specimen Collection and Transport

See [Pre-analytical Procedure - Specimen Collection QPCMI02001](#)

III. Reagents / Material / Media

See [Analytical Process - Bacteriology Reagents_Materials_Media List QPCMI10001](#)

IV. Procedure

A. Processing of Specimens:

See [Specimen Processing Procedure QPCMI06003](#)

a) Direct examination: Not indicated

b) Culture:

Medium	Incubation
Blood Agar (BA)	CO ₂ , 35°C x 48 hours
Haemophilus Isolation Medium (HI)	CO ₂ , 35°C x 48 hours

B. Interpretation of cultures:

Examine the plates after 24 and 48 hours incubation for any growth of *H. influenzae*, Group A streptococcus and *S. aureus*.

Send all *Haemophilus influenzae* isolates to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for typing.

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C. Susceptibility testing:

Refer to Susceptibility Testing Manual.

V. Reporting

Negative report: “Commensal flora” or “No growth”.

Positive report: Quantitate all significant isolates with appropriate sensitivities. Report “Commensal flora” if also present.

Telephone all positive Group A streptococcus results to ward / ordering physician.

VI. References

P.R. Murray, E.J. Baron, M.A. Pfaller, R.H. Tenover, R.M. Tenover. 2003. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.

H.D. Izenberg. 2003. Respiratory Tract Cultures, 3.11.1.1 in Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 2nd ed. Vol.1 ASM Press, Washington, D.C.