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Section: Respiratory Tract Culture Manual	Subject Title: Mouth Swabs	
Issued by: LABORATORY MANAGER	Original Date: September 25, 2000	
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MOUTH SWABS

I. Introduction

Mouth swabs are usually obtained in order to identify oral yeast infections (thrush) and less often Vincent's angina (a rare oropharyngeal infection associated with *Borrelia vincentii* (a spirochete) and *Fusobacterium* species).

II. Specimen Collection and Transport

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

III. Reagents / Materials / Media

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

IV. Procedure

A. Processing of Specimens:

See [Specimen Processing Procedure QPCMI06003](#)

a) Direct Examination: Gram stain:

Yeast: Examine for presence of pseudohyphae and/or budding yeasts.

Vincent's angina: Examine for presence of spirochetes and/or fusiform bacilli and pus cells.

b) Culture: Not indicated.

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V. Reporting

Negative Report: “No fungal element seen on direct examination. Fungal culture not done”

“No organisms suggestive of Vincent’s angina seen”.

Positive Report: “Yeast (with pseudohyphae) seen on direct examination. Fungal culture not done”

“Organisms suggestive of Vincent’s angina seen”

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.