

TML\MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI/RESP/14/v02	Page 1 of 2
Section: Respiratory Tract Culture Manual	Subject Title: Gastric Aspirates/Swabs from Neonates or Stillborn	
Issued by: LABORATORY MANAGER	Original Date: May 09, 2004	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date: April 6, 2005	

GASTRIC ASPIRATES/SWABS from Neonates or Stillborn

I. Introduction

In utero the fetus is in a sterile environmental. Therefore, no bacteria should be present in the gastric aspirate of the newborn. The presence of bacteria in a gastric aspirate or swab of a neonate or stillborn may be significant.

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 Specimen:

See [Specimen Processing Procedure QPCMI06003](#)

a) Direct Examination: Gram Stain - Quantitate the presence and absence of pus cells, squamous epithelial cells, and organisms.

b) Culture:

Media	Incubation
Blood Agar (BA)	CO ₂ , 35°C x 48 hours
Chocolate Agar (CHOC)	CO ₂ , 35°C x 48 hours
MacConkey Agar (MAC)	CO ₂ , 35°C x 48 hours

TML\MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI/RESP/14/v02	Page 1 of 2
Section: Respiratory Tract Culture Manual	Subject Title: Gastric Aspirates/Swabs from Neonates or Stillborn	

B. Interpretation of cultures:

Examine the culture plates after 24 and 48 hours incubation. Any growth of *S. aureus*, beta-haemolytic streptococci group A, B, C and G, *H. influenzae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is significant. A pure growth of other gram-negative bacilli is also significant. Full identification is required for all significant organisms. Mixed cultures and/or growth of $\leq 1+$ non-significant organisms do not require workup (identify by gram stain and morphology).

C. Susceptibility Testing:

Neonates - Refer to Susceptibility Testing Manual for significant organisms.
Stillborn - not required

V. Reporting

Gram Stain: Report with quantitation the presence or absence of pus cells and organisms.

Culture:

Negative Report: "No growth"
“(Quantitation) mixed growth of *list organisms...*”

Positive Report: Quantitate all significant isolates with appropriate sensitivities.

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. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 2nd ed. Vol.1 ASM Press, Washington, D.C.