

TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MIVTECH\05\v01	Page 1 of 2
Section: Technical Manual	Subject Title: Bacitracin Disk Test	
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BACITRACIN DISK TEST

Principle

This is a screening test for the presumptive identification of Group A Streptococci which are susceptible to 0.04U bacitracin. Other beta-haemolytic streptococci are usually resistant to this concentration of bacitracin.

Reagents

Bacto Differentiation Disks Bacitracin (0.04U). Store refrigerated.
Blood Agar (BA)

Other Materials

Culture loop
Cotton swabs
Forceps

Procedure

1. Inoculate the surface of the BA with the suspect beta haemolytic *Streptococcus*. Streak for confluent growth.
2. Using aseptic technique, place a bacitracin disk onto the inoculated surface.
3. Incubate in O₂ at 35°C X 18-24 hr.

Interpretation

Susceptible: any zone of inhibition around the disk (Presumptive Group A Streptococcus).
Resistant: growth up to the edge of the disk

Precautions

1. Other beta-haemolytic streptococci may be susceptible to bacitracin. Therefore this test can be used only for the presumptive identification of Gp. A Strep.

TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\TECH\05\v01	Page 2 of 2
Technical Manual		

Quality Control

Test with known susceptible and resistant control strains weekly.

Susceptible: Gp.A Strep. (ATCC 19615)

Resistant: Gp.B Strep. (ATCC 13813)

Reference

1. Difco Differentiation Disks Bacitracin package insert.