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Section: Technical Manual	Subject Title: DNase Test	
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DNase TEST

Principle

This test determines the ability of an organism to produce deoxyribonuclease (DNase). This test used, in conjunction with others, for the identification of *S. aureus*, *M. catarrhalis* and *Serratia* species.

Reagents

DNase test agar with methyl green

Other Materials

Culture loop or wooden applicator stick

Procedure

1. Spot inoculate an isolate using growth from an 18-24 hr pure culture.
2. Incubate in O₂ at 35°C X 18-24 hr.

Interpretation

The plate should be observed against a white background.

Positive: Distinct clear zone surrounding spot inoculum
 Negative: No clear zone

Quality Control

Test each new batch of media and when in use with positive and negative controls.

Positive: *S. aureus* (ATCC 25923)
 Negative: *S. epidermidis* (ATCC 12228)

Reference

1. MacFaddin JF, Biochemical Tests for Identification of Medical Bacteria, 2nd ed., Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore MD., 1980, p94-113.