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Section: <b>Technical Manual</b>	Subject Title: <b>KOH String Test</b>	
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## **KOH STRING TEST**

### **Principle**

The formation of a string (DNA) in 3% KOH indicates that the isolate is a gram negative organism.

### **Reagents**

3% KOH

### **Other Materials**

Glass slides  
Culture loop

### **Procedure**

1. Place a drop of 3% KOH onto a glass slide.
2. Emulsify in KOH a loopful of the culture from a BA incubated for 18-24 hr.
3. Continue to mix the suspension for 60 sec and by slowly lifting the loop, observe for the formation of a string.

### **Interpretation**

Positive: formation of a string within 60 seconds

Negative: failure to form a string

### **Precautions**

1. False positive and false negative results may occur.

### **Quality Control**

Known controls should be tested each time the test is performed.

Positive: *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853)

Negative: *S. aureus* (ATCC 25923)

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### **References**

1. Murray PA et al. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 7th ed., 1999; p. 1671.