

CENTEGRA CLINICAL LABORATORIES
McHenry/Woodstock, Illinois

THROAT CULTURE

Throat cultures are obtained for diagnosis of streptococcal pharyngitis (Group A Streptococcus) and, as indicated, for other diagnosis such as gonococcal pharyngitis (*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*).

- ** Rapid Group A Strep includes a rapid screening test for Group A streptococcus, and if the rapid test yields a negative result, a routine culture for beta-hemolytic streptococcus will be performed.
- ** Throat Culture includes a culture for beta-hemolytic streptococcus.
- ** If any other organisms are suspected, this must be indicated, such as, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* for gonococcal pharyngitis, *Haemophilus influenzae* for epiglottitis or *Candida albicans* for thrush. If the organism suspected is not indicated, only beta-hemolytic streptococcus will be sought.
- ** Beta-hemolytic streptococci that do not type as Group A, and are predominant organisms, will be reported as "Beta-hemolytic streptococci, not Group A".

SUPPLIES:

1. BBL Culture Swab (Red Cap Double Swab).
2. Tongue depressor

PROCEDURE:

1. Do not obtain throat samples if epiglottitis is inflamed, as sampling may cause serious respiratory obstruction.
2. Depress tongue gently with tongue depressor.
3. Extend double sterile swabs between the tonsillar pillars and behind the uvula, avoiding the tongue, buccal mucosa, and uvula.
4. Sweep the swabs back and forth across the posterior pharynx, tonsillar areas, and any inflamed or exudative areas.
4. Replace swab in transport tube.

TRANSPORT:

Transport promptly to the laboratory. If swab cannot be transported within 2 hours, keep at room temperature until transport.