



Ear

Collection Procedure

- External ear cultures are processed as superficial wounds.
- Middle ear fluid will be processed as a sterile body fluid.
- A swab is not recommended for collecting specimens to diagnosis otitis media infections. The specimen of choice is an aspirate from behind the tympanum (eardrum). A small swab may be used only when the eardrum has ruptured and fluid is collected.
 1. Cleanse the external ear canal with antiseptic solution.
 2. Collect using established surgical procedures.
 3. The physician surgically incises the eardrum and collects as much fluid as possible into a syringe or the material may be allowed to collect on a sterile culture swab.
 4. If using a syringe, remove the needle and cap the syringe before transporting to the laboratory.
 5. Transport to the laboratory at room temperature.