Dehydrated Culture Media

BRAIN HEART INFUSION

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AGAR

Code: CM1136

A solid medium which contains the highly nutritious infusions recommended for the cultivation of fastidious organisms.

Formula gm/litre

Brain infusion solids 12.5 Beef heart infusion solids 5.0 Proteose peptone 10.0 Sodium chloride 5.0 Glucose 2.0 Disodium phosphate 2.5 Agar 10.0 pH 7.4 ± 0.2 @ 25°C

Directions

Suspend 47g in 1 litre of distilled water. Bring to the boil to dissolve completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri dishes. For blood agar, cool to 50° C and enrich with 10% v/v sterile defibrinated blood.

Description

Brain Heart Infusion Agar may be recommended for the cultivation of streptococci, Neisseria and other

fastidious organisms. Seth¹ described the use of Oxoid Brain Heart Infusion with agar for the isolation of Neisseria gonorrhoeae. Oxoid Brain Heart Infusion Agar was designed to be equivalent in performance.

The addition of blood and antibiotics makes Brain Heart Infusion Agar suitable for the isolation of the

tissue phase of Histoplasma capsulatum and other pathogenic fungi, including *Coccidioides immitis*^{2,3}. For the selective isolation of fungi, without blood, cyclohexamide 0.5mg/ml and chloramphenicol

0.05mg/ml of Brain Heart Infusion Agar may be added^{4,5}.

Storage conditions and Shelf life

Store the dehydrated medium at 10-30°C and use before the expiry date on the label. Store the prepared plates of medium at 2-8°C.

Appearance

Dehydrated medium: Straw coloured, free-flowing powder Prepared medium: Straw coloured gel

Quality control

Positive controls Expected results with blood

Neisseria meningitidis ATCC® 13090* Good growth; grey brown coloured colonies *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ATCC®6303* Good growth; grey green coloured colonies **Negative control** Uninoculated medium No change

*This organism is available as a Culti-Loop®

Precautions

The medium is tested for compatibility using 7% v/v oxalated horse blood, defibrinated horse blood or defibrinated sheep blood. There should be no evidence of lysis or darkening after incubation at 37°C, 25°C or 4°C for 72 hours.

When using this medium to isolate *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Coccidioides immitis* or other pathogenic fungi which can produce free infective spores, extreme care must be taken to avoid dissemination of infective particles in the laboratory. The cultures should be examined only in a closed, filtered air cabinet.

This medium is unsuitable for the screening of vancomycin resistant enterococci (VRE). More suitable and superior media for the screening of VRE are available; Brilliance VRE PO1226A or Remel BHI with Vancomycin RO1176.

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