

GC Agar Base

DM136

Intended Use

A basal medium suitable for the preparation of 'chocolate' plates for the culture of gonococci.

Contents

See pack label.

Formulation*

Material:	Concentration in medium:
Special peptone mixture	10.0g/litre
Bacteriological peptone	5.0g/litre
Sodium chloride	5.0g/litre
Corn starch	1.0g/litre
Potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate	1.0g/litre
Di-potassium hydrogen orthophosphate	4.0g/litre
Agar A	10.0g/litre
Final pH: 7.2 ± 0.2	

Storage and shelf life

All dehydrated culture media containers should be kept tightly closed and stored in a dry place at 10 to 25°C until the expiry date shown on the pack label.

Precautions

For *in vitro* diagnostic use only. Observe approved hazard precautions and aseptic techniques. To be used only by adequately trained and qualified laboratory personnel. Sterilise all biohazard waste before disposal. Refer to Product Safety Data sheet (available on request or via MAST® website).

Materials required but not provided

Standard microbiological supplies and equipment such as loops, MAST® selective supplements, swabs, applicator sticks, incinerators and incubators, etc., as well as serological and biochemical reagents and additives such as blood.

Procedure

1. Refer to pack label for quantities and volumes required. Prepare MAST® G.C. Agar Base (DM136D) by suspending the powder in distilled or deionised water. For sachet packs, dissolve the entire contents of the sachet in the volume shown on the label.
2. Autoclave at 121°C (15 p.s.i.) for 15 minutes.
3. Cool to 50 to 55°C and hold at this temperature in a water bath. Add 5 to 7% sterile horse blood and mix thoroughly.
4. Hold at 80°C, mixing occasionally until the medium becomes a chocolate brown colour and pour plates

5. The medium can be made selective by the use of MAST® G.C. SELECTAVIAL, SV5 or SV6.
6. A nutritious medium can also be prepared without the addition of blood. This is conveniently achieved by using MAST® G.C. SELECTAVIAL (SV16).
7. Pour culture plates (15 to 20ml per plate) and allow to set.
8. Prepared culture plates may be used immediately or stored in plastic bags at 2 to 8°C for up to one week before use.
9. Inoculate plates by surface plating transport swabs and other clinical specimens, streaking out for single colonies.
10. Incubate in a humid atmosphere containing 5 to 10% CO₂ for 24 to 48 hours at 35 to 37°C.

Interpretation of results

After incubation record growth of organisms. Gonococci and meningococci grow as non-pigmented translucent colonies.

Quality control

Check for signs of deterioration. Quality control must be performed with at least one organism to demonstrate expected performance. Do not use the product if the result with the control organism is incorrect. The list below illustrates a range of performance control strains which the end user can easily obtain.

Test Organisms	Result
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> ATCC® 49226	Growth
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> ATCC® 13090	Growth
<i>Neisseria lactamica</i> ATCC® 23970	Growth

References

Bibliography available on request.