BACITRACIN DISCS

For the identification of Group A haemolytic streptococci.

Introduction

Pathogenic streptococci have been divided into groups with different clinical significance by Lancefield’s precipitation test. Of these, Group A streptococci are of particular epidemiological importance being implicated in puerperal fever, scarlet fever, tonsillitis etc.

Group A streptococci are almost always β-haemolytic, therefore tests to demonstrate the presence of this group need only to be performed on β-haemolytic streptococci.

Maxted\(^1\) reported that bacitracin inhibited growth of Group A streptococci whilst growth of non-group A streptococci was unaffected. Levinson & Frank\(^2\) also confirmed the usefulness of bacitracin as a presumptive identification test.

Description

MAST ID™ Bacitracin Discs are available in 2 strengths of bacitracin; 0.04 unit and 0.1 unit. Each disc is printed with the code BAID on both sides for easy identification.

Directions

1. Subculture the test β-haemolytic streptococcus by spreading over a blood agar plate.
2. Place a disc of either strength on the inoculated medium.
3. Incubate overnight at 37°C before reading the results.

In Use

The presence of a zone of inhibition of any size around a 0.04 unit disc, or zone of inhibition of 12mm or greater around a 0.1 unit disc indicates the test organism is probably a Group A streptococcus.\(^3\)

Any bacitracin sensitive Group A streptococci may be used as a sensitive control organism.

Presumptively positive Group A streptococci can be confirmed using the MASTASTREP™ kit (RST 201) or individual grouping reagents.

Storage

Store at 2-8°C in the containers provided. Allow to equilibrate to room temperature before opening.

Packing and Ordering Details

MAST ID™ Bacitracin Discs are provided either as vials of 100 discs or as packs of 5 cartridges, each cartridge containing 50 discs.

Order Code: Product
- D40  Bacitracin 0.04 unit Discs
- D40C Bacitracin 0.04 unit Carts
- D41  Bacitracin 0.1 unit Discs
- D41C Bacitracin 0.1 unit Carts

References