

Aerobic Wound Culture

Test: In vitro test for the quantitative determination of aerobic wound culture with gram stain.

Submission Criteria: Specimen source must be included on the specimen label as well as date and time of collection. Specimen must arrive within 48 hours of collection. Preferably collect specimen prior to institution of therapy.

Swab/Container: ESwab with ESwab transport medium (Amies Buffer)

Storage and Stability:

Specimen Collection Media	Stability at 20-25°C Room Temp.	Stability at 2-8°C Refrigerated Temp.	Stability at <-20°C Frozen
ESwab (Amies Buffer)	48 Hours	48 Hours	Unacceptable

Rejection Criteria: Rejection criteria include but are not limited to:

1. Specimens submitted with mismatched, incorrect, or blank requisition forms.
2. Leaking specimens.
3. Substandard mixing or collection.
4. Expired or improperly stored collection tubes
5. Improperly filled tubes based on collection tube manufacture's guidelines.
6. Specimens which arrive at the lab past the 48-hour mark
7. Specimens submitted without a signed patient consent for treatment prior to specimen collection.
8. Samples not shipped or stored at appropriate temperature.
9. Samples without two proper identifiers or samples having identifiers that do not match the electronic or paper lab requisition.

Turnaround Time: 2-3 Business Days. Test may be delayed if repeat testing or send out testing is required.

Clinical Significance: A wide variety of microorganisms that reside on the skin and mucous membranes of the body, as well as those found in the environment, can cause skin and soft tissue infections. These organisms enter the body through breaks in the skin or mucous membranes, through wounds made by trauma or bites (exogenous), or as a complication of surgery or foreign-body implants (endogenous), or they can be spread to the tissues through the vascular system (hematogenous). Superficial wounds and abscess specimens usually grow primary pathogens causing skin and soft tissue infections.

Reference Ranges: No growth, Normal Skin Microbiota; Identification of probable pathogens.

Method: Culture and Sensitivity with Gram stain

Platform: Bruker MALDI-TOF; BD Phoenix

CPT Codes: 87070; 87205 *additional charges may be added as additional testing is performed.