***Listeria monocytogenes Identification Chart***

# Summary

## Major pathogen found in Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) and Blood only

# Characteristics

1.

2a.

2b.

****

1. CSF showing Polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs), Monocytes, and Gram-positive rods (may be intracellular).

2c.

3a.

3b.

1. (a-c)Regular small Gram (+) rods. May be short or longer.
2. a - Beta hemolysis does NOT extend beyond edge of colony. b – This microorganism is not *Listeria* because beta hemolysis extends beyond edge of colony.

4.

5a.

5b.

1. Catalase (+)

Note: Colony looks like Group B streptococci. Differentiate from Group B streptococci by Gram stain and positive catalase reaction.

1. Motility:

a - Tumbling motility at 26°C

b - Non-motile at 35° C

This job aid is a component of the free, on-demand CDC training course “Biochemicals and Gram-Positive Organism Identification.” Find the course at <https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining.>