



Culture Media Table

Introduction

Culture media is useful to isolate and identify microorganisms from various sites in the human body. This culture media table will help you learn about the various general media used in a public health or clinical microbiology laboratory. The table has basic culture media you will use as you process a specimen in the laboratory or work with an isolate sent to you from a clinical or reference laboratory.

Media	Enriched	Selective	Differential
Anaerobe Blood Agar (AnaBAP)	X		
Blood Agar (BAP) also called Sheep Blood Agar (SBA)	X		X
<i>Campylobacter</i> Blood Agar (CAMPY)	X	X	
Chocolate Agar (CHOC)	X		
CHROMagar or Chromogenic Agar	X	X	X
Columbia Colistin Nalidixic Acid Agar (C-CNA or CNA)	X	X	X
Gram Negative (GN) Broth/Selenite F (SF) Broth	X	X	
Hektoen Enteric Agar (HE)		X	X
MacConkey Agar (MAC)		X	X
Mac-Sorbitol (SMAC) Agar or MAC-sorbitol with cefixime and tellurite (CT-SMAC) Agar for <i>E. coli</i> O157		X	X
Phenylethyl Alcohol Agar (PEA)	X	X	X
<i>Salmonella-Shigella</i> Agar (SS)		X	X
Thayer-Martin/Martin Lewis Agar (TM/ML)	X	X	
Thioglycollate Broth (THIO)	X		
Thiosulfate Citrate Bile Salts-Sucrose Agar (TCBS)		X	X
Xylose Lysine Deoxycholate Agar (XLD)		X	X

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