Culture Media Table

Introduction

Culture media is useful for isolating and identifying 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** | **Nutritive (enriched)** | **Selective** | **Differential** | **Enrichment** | **Basal** |
| Anaerobe Blood Agar (AnaBAP) | X |  | X |  | X |
| Blood Agar (BAP), also called Sheep’s Blood Agar (SBA) | X |  | X |  |  |
| Campylobacter Agar (CAMPY) |  | X |  |  |  |
| Chocolate Agar (CHOC) | X |  |  |  |  |
| Chromogenic culture medium or CHROMagarTM |  | X | X |  |  |
| Columbia colistin nalidixic acid (CNA) |  | X | X |  |  |
| Gram-Negative (GN) Broth |  | X |  | X |  |
| Selenite F (SF) Broth |  | X |  | X |  |
| Hektoen enteric Agar (HEK, HE or HEA) |  | X | X |  |  |
| MacConkey Agar (MAC) |  | X | X |  |  |
| Mac-Sorbitol (Sorbitol-MAC) for *E. coli* 0157 Agar (SMAC) |  | X | X |  |  |
| Phenylethyl Alcohol Agar (PEA) |  | X |  |  |  |
| Salmonella Shigella Agar (SS) |  | X | X |  |  |
| Thayer-Martin/Martin-Lewis Agar (TM/ML) | X | X |  |  |  |
| Thioglycollate Broth (THIO) |  |  |  | X | X |
| Thiosulfate Citrate Bile Salts Sucrose Agar (TCBS) |  | X | X |  |  |
| Xylose Lysine Deoxycholate Agar (XLD) |  | X | X |  |  |