



BACTERIAL CULTURE, ANAEROBIC (CLINICAL SAMPLE)

Synonym(s):

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Lab Section Category	Bacteriology/Mycology/Parasitology - Bacteria Click here to find out more about the write-up (/Clinical-Departments-Centers/Pathology/Pathology-Handbook/Lab-Discipline-Special-Instructions/pages/bacteriology-mycology-parasitology.aspx).		
Specimen Required	For further details, see guidelines on collecting samples. It is important to indicate the source and type of sample sent. Suitable samples include: -anaerobic blood culture bottles -pus sent in a syringe -tissue or swab sent in anaerobic transport media -protected BALs -protected brush specimens -sterile fluids All samples must be sent to the laboratory within one hour. If both aerobic and anaerobic culture is desired, separate swabs must be sent. Dry swabs must not be sent for anaerobic culture – they have to be put in transport media.		
Method	Culture		
Test Result	Organisms reported; no growth of anaerobes; mixed growth of aerobes and anaerobes		
Turnaround Time	Negative: 4 - 8 days Positive: 4 - 8 days		
		Negative	Positive
	Blood culture	4 – 5 days	4 - 7 days
	Actinomyces	14 days	16 days
Day(s) Test Set up	Daily		
Remarks	Unacceptable samples include dry swabs and samples from sites normally colonised by anaerobic bacteria, e.g. sputum, ETT aspirate, bronchial washings, stool (except for <i>C. difficile</i> culture), voided urine, vaginal swab, superficial material collected from skin surface.		

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