



Protecting and improving the nation's health

UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations

Review of Users' Comments received by
Working group for microbiology standards in clinical
bacteriology

B 38 Investigation of bone marrow



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Recommendations are listed as ACCEPT/ PARTIAL ACCEPT/DEFER/ NONE or PENDING

Issued by the Standards Unit, Microbiology Services, PHE

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Consultation 15.09.14 – 13.10.14

Version of document consulted on – B 38dr+

Proposal for changes

Comment number	1		
Date received	10/10/2014	Lab name	Royal Liverpool University Hospital
Section	4.5 Culture and Investigation		
Comment			
<p>a. We note the advice to use enrichment broth and examine the broth daily and subculture if positive. We felt this would be challenging as the broth Robinsons Cooked Meat Broth tends to become cloudy secondary to break down of the constituents of the broth, regardless of the presence of bacteria.</p> <p>b. We also note the suggestion to keep the FAA plate for 48 hours only - our practice is to extend the incubation to 5 days as our experience is that anaerobes are frequently isolated beyond 2 days. We would therefore be concerned regarding missing anaerobic growth, particularly as our empirical antibiotic treatment of bone infection does not always include anaerobic cover.</p>			
Recommended action	<p>NONE</p> <p>These comments are based on a previous version of the document, not the version of the document under consultation. Both points have been addressed.</p>		

Comments received outside of consultations

Comment number	1		
Date received	01/07/2013	Lab name	MSTAG
Section	All 4 - 2.5.3		
Comment			
<p>a. Blood culture broths - are both aerobic and anaerobic broths recommended?</p> <p>b. Incubation time 7-21d, conflicting advice regarding <i>Brucella</i> given in previous section, is this what is meant by "slow grower"?</p> <p>c. Microscopy suggesting anaerobes - not felt to be relevant to bone marrow, as cannot tell if anaerobes by microscopy.</p> <p>d. Neomycin - would this be needed, it was felt that FAA alone should suffice.</p>			
Recommended action	<p>a. ACCEPT</p> <p>Both bottles are recommended, this has been clarified in the text and table.</p> <p>b. ACCEPT</p>		

	<p>Brucella are expected in most cases to grow within 5-7 days. The table has been updated in line with the other SMI documents to state a 5 day incubation. Reference to slow growers has been removed.</p> <p>c. PARTIAL ACCEPT</p> <p>It is accepted that it is not possible to differentiate anaerobes from aerobes by microscopy. FAA for anaerobes has been moved to the standard media section of the media table under subculture plates. Table and appendix updated.</p> <p>d. ACCEPT</p> <p>FAA rather than neomycin FAA with a metronidazole disc is recommended. Table and Appendix updated.</p>
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Comment number	2		
Date received	02/08/2013	Lab name	British Infection Association (BIA)
Section	Table 2.5.3 - incubation and culture of samples potentially containing anaerobes for microscopy.		
Comment			
Minor inconsistency between duration of incubation (7d) and reading (5d).			
Recommended action	ACCEPT		
	Table reviewed and updated. Incubation FAA for 5 days, read at 3 and 5 days.		

Respondents indicating they were happy with the contents of the document

Overall number of comments: 1			
Date received	29/09/2014	Lab name	Public Health Wales (PHW)