

Streptocard Enzyme Latex Test

A latex agglutination test for the identification of streptococcal groups A, B, C, D, F and G

For more information, see package insert

Preparation of Cultures:

Samples for identification should be grown on a blood agar plate 16-24 h at 35 +/- 2° C. Note the hemolytic reaction of suspect colonies. It is also advisable to perform a Gram stain and catalase test to confirm the presence of Gram-positive, catalase-negative cocci.

Reconstitution:

Prior to use, reconstitute the lyophilized vial of **BBL** Extraction Enzyme with 12mL of distilled water. Store at 2-8°C. Use within 3 months of reconstitution, but prior to the expiration date on the vial.

Test Method:

1. Label a test tube appropriately and dispense 0.4mL of **BBL** Extraction Enzyme into the tube for each specimen to be tested.
2. Select 2-5 similar colonies with a microbiological loop and emulsify in the **BBL** Extraction Enzyme. If the culture is mixed, avoid obvious contamination. If the colonies are small, use more than five and ensure that at least a slightly turbid suspension is obtained.
3. Incubate the tube for a total of 10 min at 37 +/- 2°C in a water bath or heat block. After 5 min incubation remove each tube and mix by shaking for 2-3 sec, then continue the incubation. Remove and allow to cool to room temperature. The extract is now ready for use.
4. Ensure that the Test Latex has warmed to room temperature. Make sure the Test Latex suspensions are mixed by shaking and expel any Test Latex from the dropper for complete mixing.
5. Dispense 1 drop from each Test Latex to be tested onto a separate circle on the reaction card.
6. Using a Pasteur pipette add 1 drop of extract to each of the six test circles
7. With the mixing sticks provided, spread the mixture over the entire area of the circle, using a separate stick for each.
8. Gently rock the card manually for up to 1 min and observe for agglutination under normal lighting conditions. Read macroscopically: do not use magnification to aid reading
9. Dispose of the reaction card in an appropriate biohazard container.

User Quality Control:

NEGATIVE CONTROL – Shake each Test Latex and dispense 1 drop onto a separate circle on the card. Dispense 1 drop of reconstituted **BBL** Extraction Enzyme onto each of the six circles. Spread each mixture over the entire area of the circle, using a

separate stick for each Test Latex. Rock the Card manually for 1 min. No obvious agglutination should be evident for any Test Latex suspension.

POSITIVE CONTROL – Shake each Test Latex and dispense 1 drop onto a separate circle onto the card. Dispense 1 drop of Control + onto each of the six circles. Spread each mixture over the entire area of the circle, using a separate stick for each Test Latex. Rock the card manually for 1 min. Each of the six Test Latex should demonstrate obvious agglutination.

Interpretation of Test Results:

Positive Result: A positive result is obtained if obvious agglutination of the blue latex particles occurs within 1 min with a single Test Latex. Any weaker reaction which occurs in the presence of a substantially stronger positive reaction should be ignored.

Negative Result: A negative result is obtained if no agglutination occurs within 1 min. Faint traces of granular material may be observed in negative reactions and should be ignored.

Uninterpretable Results: If more than one Test Latex strongly agglutinates, then the possibility exists that a mixed culture of streptococcal groups are present. Examine the plate and carefully select organisms of like morphology and retest. Subculture, if the suspected organism are overgrown or insufficient. If the reaction pattern is unaltered, reisolate the organism or perform additional biochemical tests. See package insert for more details.