

## Clostridium Difficile Agar Base (Brazier's) (NCM0128)

### Intended Use

Clostridium Difficile Agar Base (Brazier's) is used with blood, Cycloserine, and Cefoxitin for the isolation of *Clostridium difficile*. *Clostridium Difficile* is not intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions in humans.

### Description

Brazier's CCEY agar is the formulation currently used by the Anaerobe Reference Unit for the isolation of *C. difficile*, resulting from work initiated by Ken Phillips and Paul Levett, and completed by Jon Brazier. Based upon the market leading anaerobe medium, Fastidious Anaerobe Agar, it incorporates additional ingredients to improve the isolation and differentiation of *C. difficile* from samples.

Cholic acid is present to promote spore germination following alcohol shock treatment, and p-hydroxyphenylacetic acid to enhance the production of p-cresol, a distinctive metabolite of *C. difficile*. Selectivity is achieved by addition of supplement X093 (cefoxitin cycloserine) and egg yolk emulsion X073 is added to help differentiate *C. difficile* from lecithinase positive clostridia. Finally, the addition of lysed horse blood optimizes the recognition of colony fluorescence when cultures are examined using UV light.

### Typical Formulation

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Peptone Mix                | 23.0 g/L  |
| Sodium Chloride            | 5.0 g/L   |
| Soluble Starch             | 1.0 g/L   |
| Agar                       | 12.0 g/L  |
| Sodium Bicarbonate         | 0.4 g/L   |
| Glucose                    | 1.0 g/L   |
| Sodium Pyruvate            | 1.0 g/L   |
| Cysteine HCl               | 0.5 g/L   |
| Hemin                      | 0.01 g/L  |
| Vitamin K                  | 0.001 g/L |
| L-Arginine                 | 1.0 g/L   |
| Soluble Pyrophosphate      | 0.25 g/L  |
| Sodium Succinate           | 0.5 g/L   |
| Cholic Acid                | 1.0 g/L   |
| p-Hydroxyphenylacetic acid | 1.0 g/L   |

pH: 7.0 ± 0.2 at 25°C

Formula may be adjusted and/or supplemented as required to meet performance specifications.

### Precaution

Refer to SDS

### Preparation

1. Suspend 48 grams of the medium in one liter of purified water .
2. Heat with frequent agitation and boil for one minute to completely dissolve the medium.
3. Autoclave at 121°C for 15 minutes.
4. Cool to 45-50°C and aseptically add the following: 2 vials of Cycloserine/Cefoxitin Selective Supplement X093, 40 mL of Egg Yolk Emulsion X075 and 10 mL lysed horse blood.
5. Mix well and dispense.

# Technical Specification Sheet



## **Test Procedure**

For a complete discussion on the isolation and identification of *C. difficile* and other anaerobic bacteria refer to specific procedures in appropriate references.

## **Quality Control Specifications**

**Dehydrated Appearance:** Powder is homogeneous, free flowing, and light beige.

**Prepared Appearance:** Prepared medium with supplements is opaque and red.

**Expected Cultural Response:** Cultural response on Clostridium Difficile Agar Base supplemented with lysed horse blood, X075 and X093, and inoculated with the organisms listed below. Cultures were incubated at  $37 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  under the appropriate atmosphere and examined for growth at 48 hours.

| Microorganism                              | Approx. Inoculum (CFU) | Recovery            |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Bacteroides fragilis</i> ATCC® 25285    | $>10^3$                | Complete Inhibition |
| <i>Clostridium difficile</i> ATCC® 17858   | 50-200                 | >50%                |
| <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> ATCC® 13124 | $>10^3$                | Complete Inhibition |
| <i>Clostridium sporogenes</i> ATCC® 11437  | $>10^3$                | Complete Inhibition |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC® 25922        | $>10^3$                | Complete Inhibition |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC® 25923   | $>10^3$                | Complete Inhibition |

The organisms listed are the minimum that should be used for quality control testing.

## **Results**

Colonies of *C. difficile* are 4 - 6 mm in diameter, irregular, raised, opaque, and grey-white after 48 hours incubation.

## **Expiration**

Refer to expiration date stamped on the container. Dehydrated medium should be discarded if not free flowing, or if appearance has changed from the original color. Expiry applies to medium in its intact container when stored as directed.

## **Limitations of the Procedure**

1. Due to nutritional variation, some strains may be encountered that grow poorly or fail to grow on this medium. Further tests are necessary for confirmation of *C. difficile*.
2. Clostridium Difficile Agar does not contain Neutral Red indicator because it is designed for use with horse blood.
3. Typical Gram stain morphology of *C. difficile* may not be evident in colonies picked from this medium because of antibiotics present. Subculture suspected colonies to blood agar to obtain characteristic morphology.

## **Storage**

Store dehydrated culture media at 2-30°C away from direct sunlight. Once opened and recapped, place container in a low humidity environment at the same storage temperature. Protect from moisture and light by keeping container tightly closed.

## **References**

1. Brazier J.S. (1993) Rôle of the Laboratory in Investigations of Clostridium difficile Diarrhoea. Clinical Infectious Diseases 16 (4) 228-33.
2. Murray, P. R., E. J. Baron, M. A. Pfaller, F. C. Tenover, and R. H. Tenover (eds.). 1995. Manual of clinical microbiology, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.



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4. Isenberg, H. D. (ed.). 1992. Clinical microbiology procedures handbook. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.

Effective Date: 3/28/2019

Revision: 0



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