



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

BLOOD CULTURE FOR MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Blood to be cultured for the detection of *M. tuberculosis* requires a special bottle (BacT/Alert MB) and an MB/BacT Enrichment Fluid to be added within 24 hours after bottle inoculation. Both the culture bottle and the enrichment fluid can be requested from the public health laboratory.

Collection of blood into MB bottle

1. Prior to inoculation, remove the flip-top from the culture bottle and disinfect the BacT/Alert MB culture bottle top with an alcohol swab or equivalent and allow to air dry.
2. Prepare veni-puncture site using proper skin disinfection as you would for any blood culture draw. Using a butterfly setup or a sterile needle and syringe, draw 5 cc of blood directly into the BacT/Alert MB bottle using sterile technique.
 - a. NOTE: To prevent over-inoculation, there are 5 ml incremental markings on the bottle label.
3. Swab the top of the inoculated MB bottle with a mycobacteriocidal agent and allow to air dry.
4. Aseptically add 1 ml of enrichment fluid to the MB bottle containing the patient's blood. Invert a few times to mix well. The enrichment broth must be added to the bottle to ensure optimal growth of mycobacteria.
5. Clearly label bottle with last and first name of patient, date of birth, date and time of draw and the initials of the phlebotomist.
6. Dispose of all blood draw paraphernalia using your institution's procedure.
7. Transfer the inoculated culture bottle promptly to the public health laboratory.
8. Tell courier to transport without ice pack.

If you have questions regarding this procedure, call the Public Health Laboratory at (805) 781-5507.