Comparison of Culture Methods for the Detection of Group B Streptococcus from Vaginorectal Specimens

B. Jaster, J. Palanica, C. Barth, E. Thomas - Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, Regina, Canada.

Revised Abstract:
Background: Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is an important pathogen in neonates. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) revised guidelines in 2002 recommended screening women for GBS carriage at 35 to 37 weeks gestation by culture of a vaginorectal swab using a selective broth with subculture onto a plate. The objective of our study was to compare our current method (selective broth with subculture) with others available so as to improve the sensitivity of detection of GBS in our laboratory.

Method: Vaginorectal swabs submitted for GBS screening were processed as follows:

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- Vaginorectal swabs were processed as follows:
  1. Subculture onto Blood Agar (5% sheep blood) at 37°C (BA) (PML) and onto Granada Medium (Hardy Diagnostics). Plates were examined at 24 and 48 hrs.
  2. Subculture onto a selective agar or BA plates. The objective of our study was to compare our current method (selective broth with subculture) with others available so as to improve the sensitivity of detection of GBS in our laboratory.

Results:

Comparison of Process Charts for Group B Streptococcus Screening

References
5. B. Jaster, J. Palanica, C. Barth, E. Thomas - Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, Regina, Canada.