



## Blood Agar base

### LAB 28

#### Description

An inexpensive general purpose agar base which, with the addition of 5% sterile blood, can be used to cultivate a wide range of micro organisms of clinical significance. Typical haemolysis patterns are obtained with this medium.

Typical Formula	g/litre
Beef Extract	10.0
Balanced Peptone No. 1	10.0
Sodium chloride	5.0
Agar No. 2	12.0

#### Method for reconstitution

Weigh 37 grams of powder, disperse in 1 litre of deionised water. Allow to soak for 10 minutes, swirl to mix then sterilise by autoclaving for 15 minutes at 121°C. Cool to 47°C and add 5-7% sterile defibrinated blood. Mix by swirling the flask and pour into Petri dishes.

**Appearance:** Dependent upon blood additive.

**pH:** 7.4 ± 0.2

**Minimum Q.C. organisms:** *S. aureus*. WDCM 00033  
*S. pyogenes* ATCC 19615

**Storage of Prepared Medium:** Plates – up to 7 days at 2-8°C in the dark.

**Inoculation:** Surface, streaking to single colonies.

**Incubation:** 37°C aerobically, anaerobically or microaerobically for 24 hours.

Growth characteristics				
organism	colony size (mm)	shape & surface	colour	other
<i>S. aureus</i>	0.5-1.5	CV.E.G.	White-Golden	haemolytic
<i>S. pyogenes</i>	P.P.-1.0	CV.E.G.	Grey	beta haemolytic alpha haemolytic non-haemolytic
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	P.P.-1.0	F.E.G.	Grey	alpha haemolytic draughtsman
<i>N. meningitidis</i>	P.P.-1.5	CV.E.G.	Grey	mucoid
<i>E. coli</i>	1.5-2.5	CV.E.G.	Grey	haemolytic
<i>Ps. aeruginosa</i>	0.5-3.0	F.CR.D.	Grey	many colonial forms green pigment
<i>B. fragilis</i>	0.5-1.5	CV.E.G.	Grey	mucoid

#### References

Cruikshank, R. (1972). Medical Microbiology. 11th edn. Livingstone, London