



Department:	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Microbiology)		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Candida Auris Screening Test		
Applies To:	All Laboratory Staff		
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To establish system and responsibilities for processing Candida auris Screening Test.

2. DEFINITIONS:

2.1 General Information & Clinical Significance

Candida auris is an emerging multi-drug resistant yeast that can cause invasive infections with high mortality and can be transmitted in healthcare settings. Patients may be asymptotically colonized with *C. auris*. Patients with *C. auris* colonization can spread the yeast to other patients, and colonized patients can develop invasive as well as superficial infections. Identifying patients colonized with *C. auris* is a key step in containing its spread.

- 2.2 *Candida auris* is a common opportunistic pathogen responsible for nosocomial infections.
- 2.3 Colonization or infection with *C. auris* requires implementation of infection control measures such as patient isolation & contact precautions.
- 2.4 The emergence & dissemination of *C. auris* in the hospital setting represents a serious threat to patients, as infection with this organism is often associated with high mortality rate.

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 The currently recommended sites are the axilla, groin & sometimes nares
- 3.2 Specimens should be collected and transported in a properly labelled, sealed, sterile container.
- 3.3 Any rejected specimen is notified to the ordering ward & recorded in Hospital Information System (HIS).
- 3.4 Use of Biological safety cabinet- level 2 is recommended to avoid spread of contamination as well as to protect laboratory processing personnel.
- 3.5 The suitable protective PPE are used while processing the specimen & strong hand hygiene should be done thereafter.
- 3.6 Because *C. albicans* is the species of yeast most frequently isolated from clinical specimens, initial laboratory studies should be directed to its identification before additional, costly tests are performed.
- 3.7 For its identification, the rapid germ tube test is used in the laboratory.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 Specimens:

- 4.1.1 Axillary, groin, and sometimes nares swabs are collected in a suitable transport media.
- 4.1.2 Specimens from other body sites are accepted if *C. auris* was previously isolated from that site.
- 4.1.3 Use of Biological safety cabinet- level 2 is recommended to avoid spread of contamination as well as to protect laboratory processing personnel.
- 4.1.4 The suitable protective PPE are used while processing the specimen & strong hand hygiene should be done thereafter.

4.2 Processing of specimens:

- 4.2.1 The swabs should be properly identified & labelled when received.

4.2.2 The swabs are inoculated directly on Sabouraud Dextrose agar (SDA) with or without chloramphenicol and streaked out to obtain discrete isolated colonies.

4.2.3 Culture:

Media	Incubation
Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA)	37°C for 24-48 hrs..

N.B.: Most fungi of clinical significance can grow on blood agar

4.3 Reading of culture & Interpretation of results:

4.3.1 Reading of cultures:

4.3.1.1 Growth of yeast like colonies on 24-48 hours is for further identification. At first, germ tube test is done to exclude C. albicans. Negative germ tube test yeast colonies are then identified by Vitek 2 YST card.

4.3.1.2 The confirmation of C. auris identification is done according to the following :

4.3.1.2.1 If colonies are identified as C. auris ---- C. auris is Confirmed

4.3.1.2.2 If identified as C. haemulonii, C. duobushaemulonii Or candida spp.----- C. auris is possible & needs further work-up

4.4 Quality control:

4.4.1 For QC of media & Vitek 2 ID cards, refer to the related policies.

5. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Media: Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA).
- 5.2 Germ Tube reagent: human plasma obtained from Blood Bank (screened for HIV, HBsAg, HCV etc.)
- 5.3 35-37°C Incubator
- 5.4 Vitek 2 system ID cards
- 5.5 Glass slides, cover slips, inoculating loops
- 5.6 Light microscope

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 The assigned technician/ technologist for microbiology lab.
- 6.2 The C. Pathology Specialist/ Consultant.

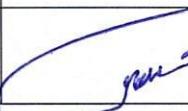
7. APPENDICES:

- 7.1 N/A

8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-patient-swab.html>
- 8.2 <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/identification.html>
- 8.3 <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candidaauris/identification.html#:~:text=auris%20is%20a%20budding%20yeast,well%20at%2040%E2%80%9342%C2%BA%20C.>
- 8.4 Guidance for Detection of Colonization of Candida auris | Candida auris | Fungal Diseases | CDC

9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Dr. Kawther M. Abdou	Consultant & Lab. Medical Director		January 01, 2025
Reviewed by:	Ms. Noora Melfi Alanizi	Laboratory & Blood Bank Director		January 05, 2025
Reviewed by:	Mr. Abdulelah Ayed Al Mutairi	QM&PS Director		January 07, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Tamer Mohamed Naguib	Medical Director		January 12, 2025
Approved by:	Mr. Fahad Hazam Alshammari	Hospital Director		January 15, 2025