



<b>Department:</b>	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Microbiology)		
<b>Document:</b>	Internal Policy and Procedure		
<b>Title:</b>	Candida Auris Screening Test		
<b>Applies To:</b>	All Laboratory Staff		
<b>Preparation Date:</b>	January 01, 2025	<b>Index No:</b>	LB-IPP-127
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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 asymptomatically 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:**





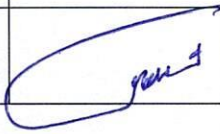
- 7.1 N/A

**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%20 budding%20 yeast,well%20at%2040%E2%80%939342%C2%BA%20C.>
- 8.4 Guidance for Detection of Colonization of *Candida auris* | *Candida auris* | Fungal Diseases | CDC



## 9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
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