**Proc.# 2013-004**

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| Procedure | ***Gardnerella vaginalis* identification** |

**1. Purpose:** To presumptively identify *Gardnerella vaginalis* using gram stain criteria and colony morphology on V agar.

1. **Scope:** A presumptive test used in conjunction with gram stain results and colony morphology.
2. **Procedure:**

Preparation and Notes

* Specimen and specimen handling if other than routine: Colonies resembling *G. vaginalis.*
* Equipment: N/A
* Materials: V-agar
* Controls: Each Lot of V-Agar will be quality controlled with a know strain of *Gardnerella vaginalis*. Results are to be logged into the media QC Book.
  1. Procedural Steps:
     1. Routine female cultures will be set up on V-Agar as part of their routine media setup. This plate is to be kept at 35-36ºC in the candle jar for 2 days.
     2. *G. vaginalis* colonies may take two days to show typical visible growth. The colony morphology if *G. vaginalis* on V-Agar shows small-hemolytic pin-point colonies.
     3. Gram stain colonies suspicious of *G. vaginalis*. The gram stain should show gram variable rods.
     4. If the criteria in steps 3.1.2 & 3.1.3 are met, isolates from urogential sites can be identified as *G. vaginalis*.
     5. If there are questions concerning the identification of the organism, an alternate procedure can be used with the SPS disk. See procedure 1008.143 for instructions.

1. **References:** Clinical Microbiology Procedure Handbook, H.D. Isneberg, Editor, ASM, Washington DC. 1999
2. **Definitions/Limitations**
   1. V-Agar is a nonselective agar, therefore other bacterial species will grow. Since this is human blood agar, hemolysis patterns for other organism should not be taken from this agar.
   2. If definitive identification is needed, this organism will probably need to be sent out to a reference lab. If this situation occurs, discuss with Microbiology Section Tech before sending out.

**Reference ranges:** Negative for *G. vagin*alis

**Limitations:** See section 5.0 above

**6. Measurements and Records**: Growth or no growth of G. vaginalis is recorded on the culture worksheet

**Calculations:** N/A

**Reporting Results:** . Identifications are reported in the Microbiology computer.

**Records to be completed:** N/A

1. **Attachments:**

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