

PRODUCT INFORMATION AND QUALITY CONTROL SHEET

SALINE, NORMAL

INTENDED USE

Saline, Normal is used in procedures requiring the use of an isotonic diluent.

SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

An isotonic diluent, such as normal saline, is routinely used to make bacterial suspensions when it is necessary to inoculate numerous media from a small inoculum and to help maintain cell integrity and viability.

PRINCIPLES OF THE PROCEDURE

Sodium chloride, at this concentration, provides osmotic protection for microbial cells.

This product is ready for use and no further preparation is necessary.

This product should not be used if (a) it is contaminated (b) there is evidence of dehydration (c) the expiration date has passed.

TYPICAL FORMULA AND APPEARANCE

Appearance = clear liquid

Sodium Chloride 8.5 g

METHODS

Refer to appropriate references for procedures and Information on specimen collection and processing (1,2). The specimen should be transported to the laboratory without delay and protected from excessive heat and cold. If there is to be any delay in culturing, a swab inoculated with the specimen should be placed in a suitable transport medium such as Amies agar. Specimens should be collected before initiation of antimicrobial therapy.

For Bacterial suspensions: Using a sterile swab or inoculating loop, pick up isolated colonies and suspend in saline to the equivalence of a turbidity standard (0.5 McFarland Standard).

Additional media and equipment required will depend on the method employed by the microbiologist.

LIMITATIONS

Organisms should be young and in pure culture. Adherence to procedures and test methods is necessary to obtain accurate results.

REFERENCES

1. Balows, A., *et al.* 1991. Manual of Clinical Microbiology. 5th ed. ASM. Washington, DC.
2. Koneman, E.W., *et al.* 1988. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology. 3rd ed. J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia

TECHNICAL SERVICE

HealthLink provides a toll free technical service line (1-800-638-2625) to assist with product usage. To have technical questions answered; please call between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST.

HealthLink
3611 St. John's Bluff Rd So
Jacksonville, FL 32224

1-800-638-2625

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