



Blood Agar Base No. 2

LAB 15

Description

A very rich agar base which, with the addition of blood, is capable of growing delicate clinical pathogens. The medium gives colonial appearances, haemolysis patterns and pigment production of diagnostic value. When the blood is 'chocolated' the medium gives good recovery of *Haemophilus* spp. The medium can be made selective for various groups by the addition of appropriate antibiotic mixtures eg:

Streptococci – Colistin/Oxolinic acid (XO13)

Gardnerella spp. – Colistin/Oxolinic acid (XO11)

C. perfringens – Neomycin (XO15) (XO16)

Staphylococci/streptococci – Colistin/Naladixic acid (XO12)

Formula	g/litre
Tryptose	15.0
Soy Peptone	2.5
Yeast Extract	5.0
Sodium chloride	5.0
Agar No. 2	12.0

Method for reconstitution

Weigh 39.5 grams of powder, disperse in 1 litre of deionised water. Soak for 10 minutes, swirl to mix then sterilise for 15 minutes at 121°C. Cool to 47°C then aseptically add 5-7% sterile, defibrinated horse or sheep blood. Mix well before pouring.

Appearance: Dependent upon blood additive.

pH: 7.4 ± 0.2

Minimum Q.C. organisms: *S. aureus* NCIMB 50080
S. pyogenes ATCC 19615

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

Inoculation: Surface, streaking out to single colonies.

Incubation: 37°C aerobically or microaerobically for 24 hours, anaerobically for 24 and 48 hours.

Growth characteristics				
organism	colony size (mm)	shape & surface	colour	other
<i>S. aureus</i>	1.5-2.0	CV.E.G.	White/ Golden	(haemolytic)
<i>S. pyogenes</i>	1.0-1.5	CV.E.G.	Grey	(beta haemolytic) (alpha or non haemolytic)
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	0.5-1.0	F.E.G.	Grey	(draughtsman) (alpha haemolytic) (mucoid) (require CO ₂)
<i>N. meningitidis</i>	0.5-1.0	CV.E.G.	Grey	(May require CO ₂)
<i>E. coli</i>	2.0-3.0	CV.E.G.	Grey	(haemolytic)
<i>Ps. aeruginosa</i>	1.0-3.0	F.CR.D.	Grey (	green pigment (haemolytic)
<i>C. perfringens</i>	1.0-2.5	CV.CR.-(E)G	Grey	"Target"- haemolysis (non-haemolytic)
<i>B. fragilis</i>	1.0-1.5	CV.E.G.	Grey	non haemolytic
<i>P. anaerobius</i>	0.5-1.0	CV.E.G.	White	non haemolytic