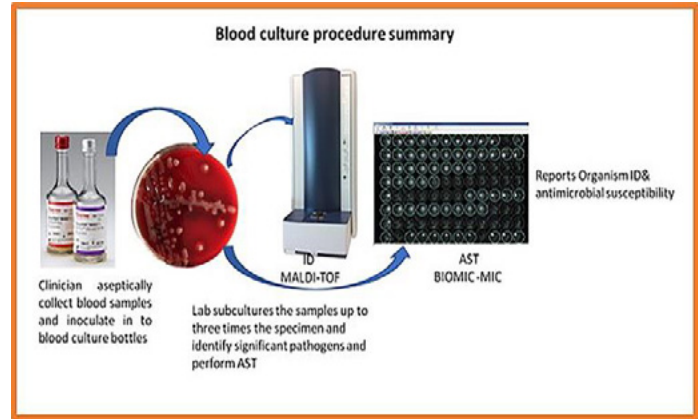


Blood Culture Procedure

SERVICE AVAILABLE Monday-Friday- 8AM-5PM
CONTACT: bacteriology@utk.edu, 865-974-5639

UTCVM BACTERIOLOGY & MYCOLOGY LABORATORY

Blood cultures are one of the most important tests performed in the laboratory today due to high morbidity and mortality rates associated with sepsis. Instead of the currently used isolator tubes we are requesting the sample be inoculated in enriched blood culture bottles, i.e. VersaTrek® REDOX blood bottles.



Blood draw and inoculation: For in-house collection: obtain one VersaTREK REDOX 1 EZ Draw (Purple/Aerobic) and one VersaTREK REDOX 2 EZ Draw 40 ml (Red/Anaerobic) from **CENTRAL SUPPLY (in-house orders only)**. Multiple cultures at intervals can be performed to maximize the pathogen recovery. Blood culture (SINGLE), Blood culture (SET OF TWO), or Blood culture (SET OF THREE) can be ordered depending on the number of draws needed. (see the pricing on our web site). Referring veterinarians may call us for suggestions.

1. Bottle preparation:
 - a. Inspect bottles for contamination or cracks - DO NOT use if damaged or turbid.
 - b. Label bottles with patient identifiers.
 - c. Disinfect top of bottle stopper with 70% alcohol or 10% povidone-iodine for 1 minute. DO NOT use iodine.
 - d. Remove any residual disinfectant with sterile gauze before injection of blood into bottle.
2. Site preparation:
 - a. Take sterile precautions by shaving area at venipuncture site followed by scrubbing with 70%isopropyl or ethyl alcohol or tincture iodine for a minimum of 30 seconds.
 - b. Allow the area to dry
3. Venipuncture/Bottle inoculation:
 - a. Assemble the sterile needle and syringe or use a sterile needle-syringe combination.
 - b. Perform the venipuncture; dispose needle in sharps container, attach new sterile needle and inoculate 0.1-5 ml PER BOTTLE, injecting the REDOX 1 (Purple/Aerobic) first. If the total blood volume obtained is less than 10 ml inoculate half of the amount into each bottle
 - c. Mix contents of each inoculated bottle 4-5 times by gentle inversion to evenly disperse blood.
4. Submit bottle set to Bacteriology Laboratory. Leave bottles at ROOM TEMP if submission is delayed -NEVER REFRIGERATE OR INCUBATE.

Note: The procedure can be used for aseptically collected Joint fluids

**Questions? Please contact Bacteriology Lab
865-974-5639 | bacteriology@utk.edu**