Kauai District Health Laboratory

Specimen Requirements for Leptospira Culture in Clinical Samples

Test: Leptospira culture

Specimen receiving: Specimens for Leptospira culture will be accepted Monday through Friday From 7:45 am – 4:00 pm. KDHL is closed on weekends and holidays.

Turn around time: 6 – 7 weeks

Specimen requirements: Blood, urine or CSF must be inoculated by the submitting lab in EMJH media (pre-requested from KDHL). If using anticoagulant tubes (i.e. vacutainer), use heparin or EDTA, not citrated tubes.

Specimen collection: Blood and CSF should be collected within the first 10 days of illness. After the first week of illness, urine may be a better source of Leptospira, however it is recommended that blood be cultured in all cases of suspected leptospirosis regardless of the date of onset.

Specimen inoculation: Submitting lab must inoculate EMJH media prior to submission. (Please contact KDHL at 241-3353 for EMJH media)

- BLOOD: Inoculate one, two and three drops of blood into three tubes of EMJH.
- CSF: Inoculate 0.5 mL of CSF to one tube of EMJH.
- URINE: Immediately after collection, centrifuge 10 - 12 mL of urine @ 1500 rpm for 5 minutes. Decant supernatant and inoculate one, two, and three drops of the resuspended sediment into three tubes of EMJH.

DO NOT REFRIGERATE INOCULATED TUBES.
STORE EMJH TUBES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE AND IN THE DARK.

Specimen transport: Specimens should be transported at ambient temperature to the laboratory. They should be securely sealed with parafilm to prevent leakage, and wrapped in aluminum foil to create a darkened environment. Tubes should be upright during transport.

Requisition form: All specimens must be submitted with a legible 81.3 request form and include:

- Patient name and another unique identifier
- Name of test requested
- Date of collection AND date of onset
- Submitter name and address
- Inclusion of patient symptomology would be desirable.
Normal value: Negative for *Leptospira* at 6 weeks.

Result notification: Final laboratory reports will be forwarded to the submitter. A positive finding will be called in to the submitting laboratory. The report will be forwarded to both the submitting laboratory and the KDHO Disease Investigation Unit.

Comments: EMJH media can be pre-requested from KDHL by a submitting laboratory.

All positive cultures will be forwarded to State Laboratories on Oahu for confirmation and to determine serovar.

Unacceptable conditions: Criteria for sample rejection include the following:
- Specimens are not inoculated in EMJH media
- Leaking specimens
- Contaminated or overgrown specimens
- Illegible or incomplete requisition forms
- Specimens have been refrigerated
- Specimens not labeled properly
- Improperly collected specimens

Test location: Kauai District Health Laboratory
3040 Umi. St.
Lihue, HI 96766

Contact information: Phone: (808) 241-3353
Fax: (808) 241-3480

Approved:

A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.

Date: 2/21/2018