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## Islams Agar

**DM255.** A medium for the isolation and presumptive identification of group B streptococci.

**Contents:** See pack label.

### Formulation\*

Material:	Concentration in medium:
Peptone mixture	23.0g/litre
Starch	5.0g/litre
Di-sodium hydrogen phosphate	5.75g/litre
Agar	12.0g/litre
Final pH: 7.7 ± 0.2	

### Storage and shelf life

All dehydrated culture media containers should be kept tightly closed and stored in a dry place at 10 to 25°C until the expiry date shown on the pack label.

### Precautions

For *in vitro* diagnostic use only. Observe approved hazard precautions and aseptic techniques. To be used only by adequately trained and qualified laboratory personnel. Sterilise all biohazard waste before disposal. Refer to Product Safety Data sheet (available on request or via MAST website).

### Materials required but not provided

Standard microbiological supplies and equipment such as loops, MAST selective supplements, swabs, applicator sticks, incinerators and incubators, etc., as well as serological and biochemical reagents and additives such as blood.

### Procedure

1. Refer to pack label for quantities and volumes required. Prepare MAST Islams Agar (DM255) by suspending the powder in distilled or deionised water. For sachet packs, dissolve the entire contents of the sachet in the volume shown on the label.
2. Autoclave at 121°C (15 p.s.i.) for 15 minutes.
3. Cool to 50 to 55°C and add 50ml/litre sterile horse serum.
4. If required the medium can be made selective by the addition of MAST Streptococcus Selectatab™ (MS12).
5. Mix well, pour culture plates (15 to 20ml per plate) and allow to set.
6. Prepared culture plates may be used immediately or stored in plastic bags at 2 to 8°C for up to one week before use.
7. Inoculate plates by surface plating, streaking out for single colonies.
8. Incubate plates anaerobically at 35 to 37°C for 18 to 24 hours.

### Interpretation of results

After incubation record growth of organisms. Group B streptococci can be easily recognised by bright orange-red pigmentation.

### Quality control

Check for signs of deterioration. Quality control must be performed with at least one organism to demonstrate expected performance. Do not use the product if the result with the control organism is incorrect. The list below illustrates a range of performance control strains which the end user can easily obtain.

Test Organisms	Result
<i>Streptococcus</i> sp. ATCC® 12386	Positive
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC® 25922	Negative
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC® 25923	Negative

### Limitations

There are a few strains of Group B streptococci that do not produce the expected orange-red pigmentation on this medium, instead they produce white colonies (e.g. *Streptococcus agalactiae* ATCC® 13813).

### References

Bibliography available on request.