

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Brain Heart Infusion Agar (BHI Agar)

Principle

The medium contains protease peptone and infusions from calf brain and beef heart which serve as sources of carbon, nitrogen, essential growth factors, amino acids and vitamins. Dextrose is used as a source of energy. Disodium phosphate helps in maintaining the buffering action of the medium whereas sodium chloride maintains the osmotic equilibrium of the medium.

Defibrinated sheep blood added to the basal medium provides essential growth factors for the more fastidious fungal organisms. It is a highly nutritious and can support luxuriant growth of wide variety of microorganisms. It can be further enriched by the addition of blood or rendered selective by adding different antibiotics. It is also used in the aminoglycoside and vancomycin screen test for resistant enterococci. BHA with 5-10% sheep blood and chloramphenicol (16 µg/ml) and gentamicin (5 µg/ml) will inhibit the growth of bacteria while allowing growth of dimorphic fungi.¹⁵ This agar can be used as a primary plating medium. This medium used for primary isolation of aerobic bacteria from clinical specimens. BHI with 0.5% Polysorbate 80 can be used for detecting *Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare* complex organisms and *M. tuberculosis* from blood cultures.

Use: For cultivation of fastidious pathogenic bacteria, yeasts and molds from clinical & non clinical samples.

Contents*

Ingredients	Gram/Litre
Beef Heart Infusion (From 250g)	5.00
Protease Peptone	10.00
Calf Brains Infusion (From 200g)	12.50
Dextrose	2.00
Sodium Chloride	5.00
Disodium Phosphate	2.50
Agar	15.00
pH at 25°C	7.4 ±0.2

* Formula adjusted for optimum performance and parameters

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Directions: Dissolve 52.00 grams in 1000 ml distilled. Boil to dissolve the medium completely and sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs. pressure (121 °C) for 15 min, cool it to 42-45 °C and distribute in petri plates and allow to solidify. Ensure complete solidification and inoculate test sample aseptically.

Specimens' types analyzed

Pharmaceutical samples, clinical and non-clinical samples etc.

Precautions to be taken

These microbial media are intended for the in-vitro use only. All the handling, experiments, storage, and discarding should be performed with the help of skilled and knowledgeable technicians and as per the established guidelines. The material should be disposed only after proper sterilization by autoclaving. Please go through the MSDS of the media to avoid any accidents or in emergency.

Performance and Evaluation

The expected performance of the medium is liable to use as per the direction on the label when stored at optimum conditions and within expiry date.

Quality Control

Appearance	Beige colored free flowing, hygroscopic homogeneous powder
Reaction of 5.2% solution	7.4 ±0.2 at 25 °C
pH	7.20- 7.60
Gelling	Firm comparable with 1.5% agar gel
Color and clarity of ready medium	Light yellow to slight amber colored opalescent gel
Growth Promotion properties	Best at ≤ 100 CFU at 32-37 °C for 18-72 h
Indicative properties	Optimum at ≤ 100 CFU at 32-37 °C for 18-48 h
Negative control	Performed using sterile distilled water

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Different Microbial Response: Prepare medium with and without 5% sheep blood per label directions. Inoculate and incubate Yeast and Mold at 25 - 30°C for 48-72 hours and all other organisms at 35 ± 2°C for 18-48 hours (Inoculum 50-100 CFU).

Organism	ATCC	Growth	Growth (with 5% Sheep blood)	Recovery
<i>Aspergillus brasiliensis</i>	16404	Luxuriant	Luxuriant	≥ 75%
<i>Candida albicans</i>	10231	Luxuriant	Luxuriant	≥ 75%
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	8739	Luxuriant	Luxuriant	≥ 75%
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	9199	Luxuriant	Luxuriant	≥ 75%
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	25923	Luxuriant	Luxuriant	≥ 75%

Storage and Shelf Life: The product is highly hygroscopic; keep the container tightly closed at all times and store it properly as per the conditions mentioned on the label. The declared expiry is valid only when stored as per the conditions mentioned on the label. Note: Sterilize media immediately after reconstitution.

Disposal: To avoid the contamination or propagation of any hazardous microbes the used, unusable or modified preparation of this product must be disposed after autoclaving after completion of task.

Reference

1. Ajello, L., L. K. Georg, W. Kaplan, and L. Kaufman. (1966), *Laboratory manual for medical mycology* (CDC), U.S. DHEW, Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA.
2. Atlas, R. M. (2005). *Handbook of media for environmental microbiology*. CRC press.
3. *Difco Manual* (1998). 11th Edition. Difco Laboratories., Division of Becton Dickinson and Company, Sparks, Maryland, USA.
4. Rand, M. C., Arnold E. Greenberg, and Michael J. Taras, (1976), *Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater*. Prepared and published jointly by American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, and Water Pollution Control Federation.

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