

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

ChromArt

**CHROMOGENIC STREPTO B SUPPLEMENT**  
Freeze-dried selective supplement**1 - INTENDED USE**

*In vitro* diagnostic. Mixture of antimicrobials to be added to Chromogenic Strepto B Agar Base for the presumptive detection of Lancefield group B streptococci (*Streptococcus agalactiae*; GBS) carriage in clinical specimens.

**2 - COMPOSITION - VIAL CONTENTS (FOR 500 ML OF MEDIUM)**

Antimicrobial mix 0.04 g  
Chromogenic mix 0.05 g

**3 - PRINCIPLE OF THE METHOD AND EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEDURE**

Chromogenic Strepto B Supplement added to Chromogenic Strepto B Agar Base, can be used for the presumptive detection of Lancefield group B streptococci (*Streptococcus agalactiae*; GBS) carriage in clinical specimens. The differential characteristics are based on specific enzymatic reactions, which allow the differentiation of *S. agalactiae* colonies (pink-magenta) from other bacteria not inhibited by selective agents (e.g. enterococci) which grow with green-blue, blue, without or with a pink halo or colourless colonies. The opaque white background helps in recognizing the colours of the colonies.

The complete medium consists in a buffered nutritive medium containing antibiotics and chromogenic compounds. Gram-negative bacteria are strongly inhibited while the growth of Gram-positive organisms other than GBS is inhibited with different extent depending of genus and species of the organisms.

**4- DIRECTIONS FOR MEDIUM PREPARATION**

Dissolve the contents of one vial of Chromogenic Strepto B Supplement with 5 mL of sterile purified water. Add to 500 mL of Chromogenic Strepto B Agar Base (REF 408010) autoclaved and cooled to 47-50°C under aseptic conditions. Mix well and distribute into sterile Petri dishes.

**5 - PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Appearance of the lyophilized high, homogeneous, yellow pastille  
Appearance of the solution opalescent yellowish

**6 - MATERIALS PROVIDED - PACKAGING**

Product	Type	REF	Pack
Chromogenic Strepto B Supplement	Freeze-dried supplement	4240053	10 vials, each for 500 mL of medium base

**7 - MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED**

Autoclave, water-bath, sterile loops and swabs, incubator and laboratory equipment as required, Petri dishes, Erlenmeyer flasks, ancillary culture media and reagents for the identification of the colonies.

**8 - SPECIMENS**

Specimens consist of maternal low vaginal and anorectal swabs collected and placed in appropriate transport medium (Amies or Stuart with or without charcoal).<sup>1,2</sup> While the culture counts decline to some extent, viability of *S. agalactiae* is preserved in transport medium kept at room temperature or 4°C for up to 4 days.<sup>2</sup> Maternal high vaginal swabs should not be collected as these have a lower sensitivity.<sup>1</sup> Good laboratory practices for collection, transport and storage of the clinical specimens should be applied; collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible.

**9- TEST PROCEDURE**

Chromogenic Strepto B Agar can be used according to two protocols:

- Inoculation of the plate after pre-enrichment in Todd Hewitt Broth supplemented with colistin and nalidixic acid (recommended because it is validated in the clinical study reported below and because it increases the sensitivity and specificity of the method).
- Direct inoculation of the specimen onto the agar surface.

Remove the cap aseptically from the specimen container and place the swab(s) in Todd Hewitt CNA Broth, break off (or cut) the swab stick(s) and replace the cap. Caps should be kept loose during incubation. Incubate at 35-37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, for 18-24 hours.

Allow plates to come to room temperature in the dark. Subculture from the selective broth with a sterile loop and spread inoculum onto the agar surface.

For the direct inoculation, roll the swab(s) over a small area of the surface at the edge; then streak from this inoculated area.

Incubate the inoculated plates at 35 to 37°C, in air, for 24-48 hours.

Reading at 24 hours is possible in cases of urgency but increases the rate of false positivity. In any case, the final reading of the results must be made after incubation for full 48 hours.

**10 - READING AND INTERPRETATION**

After incubation, observe the bacterial growth and record the specific morphological and chromatic characteristics of the colonies.

- Typical *S. agalactiae* colonies: round colonies of varying size, pink or pink-magenta or magenta. Most strains develop good size (3-4 mm) round magenta colonies after 48 hours of incubation. At 24 hours some *Enterococcus* strains develop small pink or pink colonies with grey shades or have two types of small colonies: pink and grey. Colonies of these strains usually show a strong blue, grey-blue or purple colour at 48 hours.





- The presence of colourless, blue, green-blue, grey-blue, purple colonies with or without magenta halo should be interpreted as belonging to species other than *S.agalactiae* and the sample should be considered as negative.

### 11 - USER QUALITY CONTROL

All manufactured lots of the product are released for sale after the Quality Control has been performed to check the compliance with the specifications. However, the end user can perform its own Quality Control testing in accordance with the local applicable regulations, in compliance with accreditation requirements and the experience of the Laboratory. Here below are listed some test strains useful for the quality control.

CONTROL STRAINS	INCUBATION T° / T / ATM	EXPECTED RESULTS
<i>S.agalactiae</i> ATCC 13813	35-37°C / 44-48H / A	growth, pink-magenta colonies
<i>E.faecalis</i> ATCC 19433	35-37°C / 44-48H / A	growth, blue colonies
<i>P.aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	35-37°C / 44-48H / A	inhibited

A: aerobic incubation; ATCC is a trademark of American Type Culture Collection

### 12- PERFORMANCES CHARACTERISTICS

Chromogenic Strepto B Agar was evaluated by an independent Clinical Microbiological Laboratory in Italy on 225 anovaginal specimens. The medium was inoculated after enrichment of the specimen in Todd Hewitt CNA Broth. Reading was performed after 24 and 48 hours of incubation at 37°C. Chromogenic Strepto B Agar has been compared to a chromogenic medium of the market.

168 samples have been found "negative" with both chromogenic media; 44 samples have been found "positive" with both chromogenic media. 3 strains have been found "positive" with Chromogenic Strepto B Agar, "negative" with the reference medium and confirmed as Group B Streptococci by latex agglutination.

4 samples on Chromogenic Strepto B Agar and 5 samples on the reference medium originated small pink colonies identified as Enterococci (false positive in the above table).

1 sample originated doubtful colonies on both media confirmed as non-Group B *Streptococcus* and considered in the above table as a "false positive".

Chromogenic Strepto B Agar didn't give any false negative result: sensitivity 100%

Chromogenic Strepto B Agar gave 5 false positive results: specificity: 97,2%

After 24 hours of incubation, 5 samples have been found "negative" on the Chromogenic Medium used as reference and originated typical colonies on Chromogenic Strepto B Agar; after 48 hours of incubation typical colonies were observed on the reference medium too.

The performance characteristics have been evaluated with 20 clinical collection *S.agalactiae* strains: all strains developed typical colonies on both media after 24 hours of incubation.

Prior to release for sale a representative sample of all lots of Chromogenic Strepto B Supplement used for the supplementation of dehydrated Chromogenic Strepto B Agar Base REF 408010, is tested for productivity and selectivity by comparing the results with a previously approved Reference Batch.

Productivity is tested by semi-quantitative ecometric technique with the following target strains: *S.agalactiae* ATCC 13813, *S.agalactiae* ATCC 12386, 3 clinical isolates identified as Group B streptococci. After incubation at 35-37°C for full 48 hours all target strains show a good growth with typical chromatic characteristics (pink-magenta colonies).

Selectivity is evaluated by semi-quantitative ecometric technique by inoculating the plates with suitable decimal dilutions in saline of a 0.5 McFarland suspension of the following non-target organisms: *E.gallinarum* ATCC 49573, *E.faecium* ATCC 700221, *E.faecalis* ATCC 19433, *S.saprophyticus* ATCC 15305, *S.xylosum* ATCC 35033, *C.albicans* ATCC 10231, *P.aeruginosa* ATCC 27853. After incubation at 35-37°C for full 48 hours, the growth of *P.aeruginosa* and *C.albicans* is totally inhibited, the growth of *E.gallinarum*, *S.saprophyticus*, *S.xylosum*, is partially inhibited with the development of light blue colonies, the growth of *S.pneumoniae* is partially inhibited with the development of small pink colonies, while *E.faecalis* and *E.faecium* are not inhibited and grow with blue or blue-grey colonies.

### 13 - LIMITATIONS OF THE METHOD

- It is possible that few strains of *S.agalactiae* with specific growth requirements, may not grow on this medium. Optimum detection of GBS may require the use of more than one culture medium (e.g., selective medium and blood agar).<sup>1</sup>
- Some species (e.g., *Enterococcus* spp.) which are resistant to antibiotics may develop and produce colonies with an atypical colour. However, during the validation tests, 5 strains of enterococci produced small pink colonies.
- Group A streptococci and pneumococci may produce small pink colonies.
- The final reading and colonies interpretation shall be done after a full 48 hours incubation time.
- Even if the microbial colonies on the plates are differentiated on the basis of their morphological and chromatic characteristics, it is recommended that biochemical, immunological, molecular, or mass spectrometry testing be performed on isolates, from pure culture, for complete identification. On the isolates, if relevant, perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- The basal medium and the supplement are intended as an aid in the diagnosis of infectious disease; the interpretation of the results must be made considering the patient's clinical history, the origin of the sample and the results of the microscopic and/or other diagnostic tests.

### 14 - PRECAUTIONS AND WARNINGS

- Strepto B Supplement is a qualitative *in vitro* diagnostic, for professional use only; it must be used by adequately trained and qualified laboratory personnel, observing approved biohazard precautions and aseptic techniques.
- Antibiotics containing supplements must be handled with suitable protection; consult the Safety Data Sheet before use.
- The supplement and the medium base shall be used in association according to the directions described above. Apply Good Manufacturing Practice in the preparation process of plated media.
- Strepto B Supplement is sterilized by membrane filtration.
- Be careful when opening the metal ring to avoid injury.
- All laboratory specimens should be considered infectious.
- The laboratory area must be controlled to avoid contaminants such as medium powder and supplements or microbial agents.
- Sterilize all biohazard waste before disposal. Dispose the unused supplements and the sterilized media inoculated with samples or microbial strains in accordance with current local legislation.
- Do not use Strepto B Supplement as active ingredients for pharmaceutical preparations or as production materials intended for human and animal consumption.





- The Certificates of Analysis and the Safety Data Sheet of the product are available on the website [www.biolifeitaliana.it](http://www.biolifeitaliana.it).
- Notify Biolife Italiana Srl ([complaint@biolifeitaliana.it](mailto:complaint@biolifeitaliana.it)) and the relevant Authorities of any serious incident occurring in connection with the use of the *in vitro* diagnostic.
- The information provided in this document has been defined to the best of our knowledge and ability and represents a guideline for the proper use of the product but without obligation or liability. In all cases existing local laws, regulations and standard procedures must be observed for the examination of samples collected from human and animal organic districts, for environmental samples and for products intended for human or animal consumption. Our information does not relieve our customers from their responsibility for checking the suitability of our product for the intended purpose.

### 15 - STORAGE CONDITIONS AND SHELF LIFE

Upon receipt, store the product in the original package at 2-8°C away from direct light. If properly stored, the product may be used up to the expiry date printed on the label; do not use beyond this date. Once the vial has been opened and the lyophilised product has been reconstituted, the resulting solution should be used immediately. Before use, examine the lyophilized and reconstituted product and discard if there are obvious signs of deterioration (e.g., contamination, atypical colour or other abnormal characteristics).

The user is responsible for the manufacturing and quality control processes of plated media and the validation of their shelf life, according to the applied storage conditions (temperature and packaging).

### 16 - REFERENCES

1. Public Health England. UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMI) Bacteriology, B58, Issue no:3, Issue date: 26.06.18 Detection of Carriage of Group B Streptococci (*Streptococcus agalactiae*).
2. Spellerberg B, Brandt C, Sendi P. *Streptococcus*. In Carrol KC, Pfaller MA et al. editors. Manual of clinical microbiology, 12th ed. Washington, DC: American Society for Microbiology; 2019.

### TABLE OF APPLICABLE SYMBOLS

or Catalogue number	Batch code	<i>In vitro</i> Diagnostic Medical Device	Manufacturer	This side up	
Temperature limitation	Content sufficient for <n> tests	Consult Instructions for Use	Use by	Keep away from direct light	Fragile

### REVISION HISTORY

Version	Description of changes	Date
Revision 0	First edition	2022/03
Revision 1	Removal of obsolete classification	2023/04

Note: minor typographical, grammatical, and formatting changes are not included in the revision history.

