



Laboratory News

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CHANGES IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE INFECTION

Thomas Novicki, PhD, D(ABMM), Clinical Microbiologist, Marshfield Labs

On February 28, 2019, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* culture (Culture, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) will be retired. The following tests should be used in its place:

- Urogenital sources:
 - Order "**Neisseria Gonorrhoeae, Nucleic Acid Method**"
- Non-urogenital sources:
 - Order a "**Miscellaneous**" test, and specify "**Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Nucleic Acid Amplification, Misc. Sites (MGRNA), Mayo Med. Labs**"
 - Acceptable body sites are oral/throat, cornea/conjunctiva, rectum/anus, and peritoneal fluid.
 - Time to reporting will typically be between two and four days. (Please refer to our online [Test Reference Manual](#) for details.)

While the bacterium *N. gonorrhoeae* (N.g.) most commonly infects urogenital body sites, other sites such as the eye, throat, or rectum may also become infected with N.g. For many decades microbiological culture methods were the mainstay of N.g. diagnosis. However, due to its fastidious nature, even short delays in processing adversely affect recovery of N.g. in culture. Nucleic acid tests (NATs) on the other hand are largely unaffected by such delays, and additionally are more sensitive than culture. For these reasons NATs are now preferred over culture for N.g. diagnosis.



QUESTIONS

- Test information is available in the [Marshfield Labs Test Reference Manual](#) or from the Marshfield Labs Customer Service Department.
- Interpretive questions may be directed to Dr. Thomas Novicki or Dr. Thomas Fritsche, Microbiology Lab.
- Phone number: 1-800-222-5835. 📞

BACTERIAL IDENTIFICATION IN DIRECT SPECIMENS BY RIBOSOMAL DNA SEQUENCING NOW A SEND OUT TEST

Mary Stemper, MS, Microbiology Technical Director & Thomas Fritsche, MD, PhD, Clinical Pathology, Marshfield Labs

Effective February 11, 2019, Marshfield Labs will discontinue in-house bacterial identification by 16S rRNA gene sequencing. In its place, the Broad Range Bacterial PCR and Sequencing will be offered as a send out test to Mayo Medical Laboratories (Test code: **BRBPSSO**).

This test is useful for the detection of bacteria in otherwise sterile body sites as an adjunct test when suspicion of infection remains likely but conventional bacterial cultures fail to yield growth. Providers utilizing this test are encouraged to add the test as a U-Have order when "No Growth" culture results have been reviewed, and 16S sequence analysis is desired.

Mayo performs testing twice a week with a turnaround time of 7-10 days. The results will be reported in CMR under **Miscellaneous** with a comment to see separate report scanned in **Other Lab Documents**.

QUESTIONS

- Test information is available in the [Marshfield Labs Test Reference Manual](#).
- Clinical or technical questions may be directed to Mary Stemper or Dr. Thomas Fritsche, MD, Microbiology Lab.
- Phone number: 1-800-222-5835. 📞