

Foundational Training for the Entry-level Clinical Microbiologist Part Two: CLSI M35-A2 Document for Same-day Identification of Bacteria and Yeast



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The presenter states no conflict of interest and has no financial relationship to disclose relevant to the content of this presentation.

WHY WE'RE HERE

- I. Erin Bowles
- II. Sean McGee Hicks
- III. Provide foundational training in entry-level clinical microbiology laboratory skills
- IV. Extrapolate these skills toward understanding of CLSI M35-A2



OBJECTIVES

1. Apply basic bench-level skills, along with spot and rapid identification reagents, to the abbreviated identification of commonly-encountered patient isolates;
2. Recognize the utility of the CLSI M35-A2 guideline as an adjunct to routine operations in the clinical microbiology laboratory; and,
3. Recognize important limitations within the CLSI M35-A2 guideline for certain organism groupings



Life Without MALDI



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Introduction to CLSI M35-A2

IMPETUS

- We've been doing this for years (odor, spot testing, *et cetera*); CLSI sought to standardize the practice
- Cost savings, patient benefits

Study	Turnaround Time <i>P</i>	Length of Stay <i>P</i> ⁴	Mortality Index <i>P</i> ⁴	Average Cost <i>P</i> ⁴	Notes
Doern <i>et al.</i> ¹	< 0.0005	NS ⁵	< 0.02	0.01	Rapid MicroScan product
Barenfanger <i>et al.</i> ²	0.001 ⁴	0.006	0.45	0.04	VITEK product
Kerremans <i>et al.</i> ³	< 0.0001	ND ⁶	0.21	ND	VITEK products

¹J Clin Microbiol 32:1757-1762; 1994

²J Clin Microbiol 37:1415-1418; 1999

³J Antimicrob Chemother 61:428-435; 2008

WARNINGS

- “Isolates to be tested should match the criteria required for proper identification.”

CLSI M35-A2; 2008



- Sniffing/wafting can be dangerous

Once mold colony is ruled out, opening of plates from non-invasive sources (i.e., urine, sputum) is common & relatively safe

P. aeruginosa, *H. influenzae*, *Eikenella*, *S. anginosus* group odor can be detected by opened plates “not sniffed purposely”



SOME FINE PRINT

- Isolates conforming to reactions described in M35-A2 identify organism with >95% accuracy; identification can be reported without qualification
- “Confirmation by additional procedures is unnecessary for many of the species described in this document.”

CLSI M35-A2; 2008

- Lack of a positive result does not rule out the identification of an isolate; just signifies need for additional testing

STOCK UP

Bile solubility reagent

Rapid spot CAMP

H₂O₂ (aerobes)

H₂O₂ (anaerobes)

H₂O₂ (*N. gonorrhoeae*)

Germ tube

Rapid hippurate hydrolysis

Spot indole

Indoxyl acetate

MUG test

Spot oxidase

δ-aminolevulinic acid

Rapid trehalose

Urea/phenylalanine deaminase

PYR, LAP

Latex agglutination (*S. aureus*)



CATALASE

- Touch center of isolated colony with stick
 - Transfer to clean glass slide
 - Place drop of hydrogen peroxide onto cell paste
- “Immediate” bubbling (< 20 seconds) is positive
- No non-platinum loops; don’t grab blood agar
- If slow-growing isolate on blood agar (no growth MacConkey) or small GNR, perform test in biological safety cabinet

SPOT INDOLE

- 5% (w/v) *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde
1% paradimethylaminocinnamaldehyde in HCl (N)
- Moisten piece of filter paper with reagent
 - Rub portion of colony from blood agar onto paper
 - Growth medium must contain sufficient tryptophan
- Pigment formation (< 20 seconds) is positive
- Cannot use media containing dyes
 - Cannot use Mueller-Hinton or high-glucose agar
 - Detectable indole diffuses to adjacent colonies within 5 mm (false-positive results)

SPOT OXIDASE

- 1% tetramethyl-*p*-phenylenediamine dihydrochloride
- Moisten piece of filter paper with reagent
 - Rub portion of colony from blood agar onto paper
 - Use wooden stick or platinum bacteriological loop
- Blue/purple pigment (< 10 seconds) is positive
- Cannot use MacConkey or other purple agar
 - Nickel-based alloy wires containing chromium or iron may yield false-positive results upon organism transfer



M35-A2 Rapid Identification



Campylobacter jejuni/coli

- Presumptive identification

Gram-negative bacilli (gull wing)

Darting motility

Oxidase-positive

Catalase-positive

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Hippurate-positive

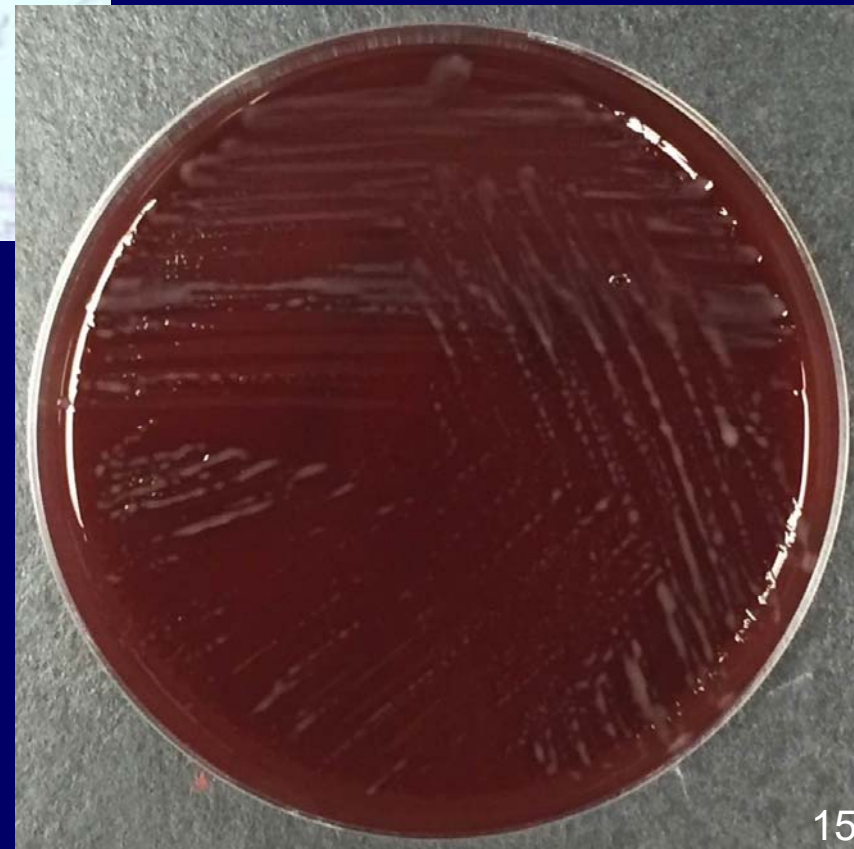
Indoxyl acetate-positive

Campylobacter jejuni

Campylobacter jejuni/coli

- Notes

Isolated colonies on *Campylobacter*-selective medium incubated in microaerophilic 42°C



Streptococcus pneumoniae

- Presumptive identification

GPC (lancet-shaped in pairs)

Catalase-negative

α -hemolysis on blood agar

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Bile solubility-positive

- Notes

~1% of *S. pneumoniae* with typical colony morphology may not be bile soluble

Viridans group *Streptococcus*

- Presumptive identification

GPC (pairs, chains)

Catalase-negative

Non-hemolytic or α -hemolysis

- Additional tests for definitive identification

PYR-negative

LAP-positive

Bile solubility-negative if α -hemolytic

- Notes

Aerococcus urinae: cocci in clusters/tetrads

Pediococcus spp.: cocci in clusters/tetrads



Aerococcus viridans

- Presumptive identification

GPC (tetrads, clusters)
 α -hemolytic

Catalase-negative

- Additional tests for definitive identification

PYR-positive
LAP-negative

- Notes





Streptococcus agalactiae

- Presumptive identification

GPC (pairs, chains)

Catalase-negative

Small zone of β -hemolysis on blood agar

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Hippurate-positive OR CAMP-positive

OR Lancefield group B via latex agglutination

- Notes

Hippurate method not to be used on non-hemolytic colonies

Streptococcus agalactiae

- Presumptive identification

GPC (pairs, chains)

Catalase-negative

Small zone of β -hemolysis on blood agar

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Hippurate-positive OR CAMP-positive

OR Lancefield group B via latex agglutination

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

β -hemolytic *Enterococcus* spp. can be hippurate-positive

Many viridans group streptococci and non-hemolytic *S. agalactiae* are hippurate-positive

Enterococcus spp.

- Presumptive identification

GPC prs, chains (no clusters) Catalase-negative
Non- β -hemolytic on blood agar (>1 mm diameter)

- Additional tests for definitive identification

PYR-positive

- Notes

Demonstrate an LAP-positive reaction with
 α -hemolytic *Enterococcus* spp. (improved specificity)

Streptococcus anginosus group

- Presumptive identification

GPC (pairs, chains)

Catalase-negative

CFU (<0.5 mm diameter); variable hemolysis

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Odor of butterscotch or vanilla

OR

Lancefield group F by latex agglutination

- Notes

May be Lancefield group A, C, F, or G by latex agglutination



Staphylococcus aureus

- Presumptive identification

 - Catalase-positive

 - Tube/slide coagulase- or latex agglutination-positive

- Additional tests for definitive identification

 - Typically β -hemolytic colonies on blood agar

- Notes

 - Tube coagulase required if non-hemolytic isolates from urine

Staphylococcus aureus

- Presumptive identification

 - Catalase-positive

 - Tube/slide coagulase- or latex agglutination-positive

- Additional tests for definitive identification

 - Typically β -hemolytic colonies on blood agar

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

S. schleiferi and *S. lugdunensis* may be slide coagulase-positive (clumpy, rather than complete agglutination); aforementioned species PYR-positive

S. saprophyticus may yield positive latex agglutination results

Staphylococcus lugdunensis

- Presumptive identification

Gram-positive cocci

Catalase-positive

Tube coagulase-negative

- Additional tests for definitive identification

PYR-positive (deep ruby red);

Polymyxin B-resistant; ornithine-positive

- Notes

May be slide coagulase-positive or clumpy

Listeria monocytogenes

- Presumptive identification

Small Gram-positive bacillus

Usually tumbling motility

Catalase-positive

Small β -hemolysis

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Hippurate-positive

- Notes

Isolate should be from blood culture or CSF culture

Listeria can be non-motile after 35-37°C incubation

Listeria monocytogenes

- Presumptive identification

Small Gram-positive bacillus

Usually tumbling motility

Catalase-positive

Small β -hemolysis

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Hippurate-positive

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

Presence of catalase is not a required factor for identification in an otherwise typical isolate

Species confirmation not necessary; 95% of clinical isolates *monocytogenes*

Escherichia coli

- Presumptive identification

Gram-negative bacilli via Gram
or growth on selective medium

Oxidase-negative
Indole-positive

- Additional tests for definitive identification

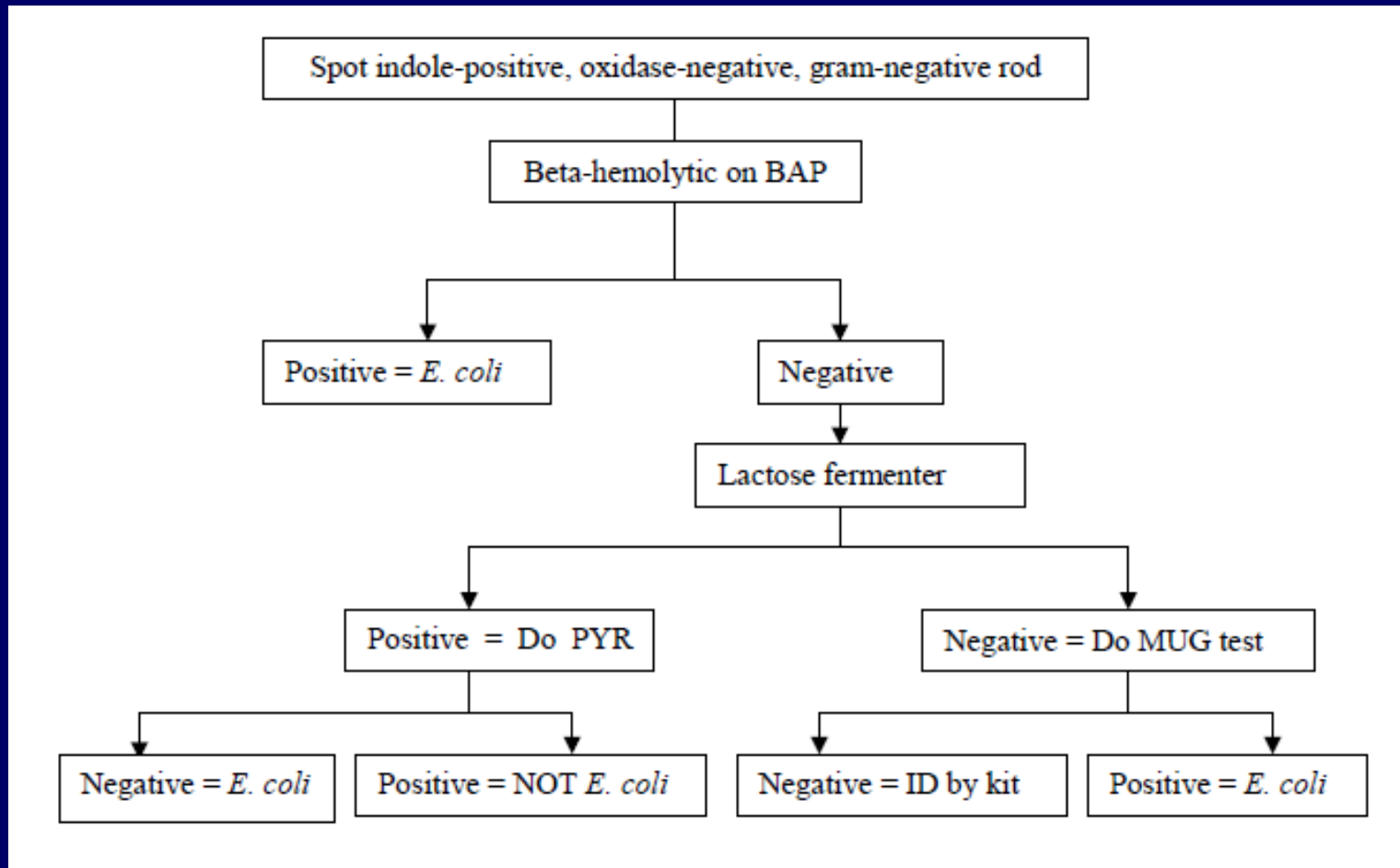
Hemolytic OR lactose-positive AND PYR-negative
OR lactose-negative AND MUG-positive

- Notes

Isolate must be growing as large colonies

Isolate cannot be derived from gastrointestinal source

Escherichia coli



CLSI M35-A2; 2008

Escherichia coli

- Presumptive identification

Gram-negative bacilli via Gram
or growth on selective medium

Oxidase-negative
Indole-positive

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Hemolytic OR lactose-positive AND PYR-negative
OR lactose-negative AND MUG-positive

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

Occasional *Shigella* spp. can be indole-positive and MUG-positive;
therefore, no rapid identification of *E. coli* from blood, fecal, GI sources

Positive MUG test may be preliminary rule-out test for O157:H7

Proteus mirabilis

- Presumptive identification

Spreading (sic) colony

Indole-negative

- Additional tests for definitive identification

None, if susceptible to ampicillin

- Notes (if resistant to ampicillin)

<i>Proteus</i> spp.	Ornithine decarboxylase	Maltose fermentation
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	positive	negative
<i>P. penneri</i>	negative	positive

Proteus mirabilis

- Presumptive identification

Spreading (sic) colony

Indole-negative

- Additional tests for definitive identification

None, if susceptible to ampicillin

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

Instead of pursuing maltose or ornithine decarboxylase testing, one could report ampicillin-resistant (indole-negative) Proteae as “indole-negative *Proteus*” or *P. mirabilis/P. penneri*

Proteus vulgaris

- Presumptive identification

Spreading (sic) colony

Indole-positive

- Additional tests for definitive identification

- Notes

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

- Presumptive identification

Indole-negative

Oxidase-positive

Metallic/pearlescent, rough, pigmented, mucoid

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Grape-like odor; corn tortilla

- Notes

Most often strongly β -hemolytic on blood agar

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

- Presumptive identification

Indole-negative

Oxidase-positive

Metallic/pearlescent, rough, pigmented, mucoid

- Additional tests for definitive identification

Grape-like odor; corn tortilla

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

Rare *Aeromonas* spp. may resemble *P. aeruginosa*, but can be differentiated by positive spot indole test

Burkholderia cepacia isolates from CF patients can resemble *P. aeruginosa*

Haemophilus influenzae

- Presumptive identification

 - Gram-negative coccobacillus

 - Good growth on chocolate; not blood, MacConkey

- Additional tests for definitive identification

 - δ -aminolevulinic acid-negative



- Notes

 - Satellitism on blood agar around *Staphylococcus* streak separates *Haemophilus* from *Brucella* and *Francisella*

Haemophilus influenzae

- Presumptive identification

 - Gram-negative coccobacillus

 - Good growth on chocolate; not blood, MacConkey

- Additional tests for definitive identification

 - δ -aminolevulinic acid-negative

LIMITATIONS/additional factors

Rapid identification algorithm applies to CSF and respiratory isolates

Haemophilus haemolyticus cannot be differentiated from *H. influenzae*, with exception of hemolysis characterization on horse blood agar

OVERALL UTILITY I

	n	Ampicillin/Sulbactam	Piperacillin/Tazobactam	Imipenem	Meropenem	Aztreonam	Cefazolin	Ceftriaxone	Cefepime	Gentamicin	Amikacin	Ciprofloxacin	Levofloxacin	Trimethoprim/ Sulfamethoxazole
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ←	1595	58	96		100	96	89	95	96	93	100	80	80	79
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	323	85	96		99	93	90	94	97	98	99	96	96	93
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	71	49	80		100	97	49	83	92	96	100	85	86	92
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	89		87		97	90		88	98	98	100	94	94	86
<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	38		71		100	84		87	97	100	100	89	89	97
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	30		93		100	93		93	100	97	100	96	97	90
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i> ←	155	84	99		100	100	87	100	100	95	100	81	85	81
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	34				100	100		100	100	100	100	91	91	100
														Tobra
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ←	186		89	82	86	67			83	91		87	80	98
Organisms with extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL):	98													
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> beta-lactamase rate: 35.1%* ←														

OVERALL UTILITY II

	n	Penicillin	Methicillin	Erythromycin	Clindamycin	Vancomycin	Levofloxacin	Nitrofurantoin	Trimethoprim/sulfa	Tetracycline
methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> ← (45% MRSA rate)	255	0	0	10	69	100	41		100	91
methicillin-susceptible <i>S. aureus</i> ←	314	11	100	69	86	100	89		99	97
coagulase-negative <i>Staphylococcus</i> ←	221	13	48	28	50	100	65		66	91
<i>Enterococcus</i> species* ←	247-321	71				89		92		
viridans group <i>Streptococcus</i> ** ←	166	67		56	88	100				
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> ** ←	167	100		39	54	100	98			
Beta-hemolytic streptococci other than group B** ←	40	100		83	85	100	100			
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> ** ←	81	PCN:	70.3% susceptible			Levofloxacin:		100.0% susceptible		
			18.5% intermediate					0.0% intermediate		
			11.1% resistant					0.0% resistant		



Acknowledgments

Jim Hermanson

Kacy Fisher

Joshua Kropp

Alana Sterkel, Ph.D.

David Uselman

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