

## Gastric Biopsies for *Helicobacter pylori*

### General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** CE marked leak proof container in a sealed plastic bag. The biopsy should be placed in a small, sterile container such as a bijoux bottle, containing a small amount (approximately 100µL) of sterile isotonic saline to preserve moisture.

**Specimen type:** Gastric biopsies – This is the specimen of choice for the culture of *H. pylori*

**Collection:** Before antimicrobial therapy where possible

Gastric biopsy specimens are usually taken from the gastric antrum at endoscopy, and sometimes from the body depending on location of inflammation

**Specimen transport:** Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible (preferably within 6h)

**Minimum volume of sample:** At the discretion of the endoscopist as it depends on the individual patient

**Special precautions:** It is important to maintain a moist atmosphere during transport.

### Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** Not applicable

**Biological reference units:** Not applicable

**Turnaround time:** Culture result within 10 days

### Clinical information

**Clinical decision points:** Not applicable

**Factors known to significantly affect the results:** Sensitivity of the microscopy may be reduced if the biopsy is submerged in the saline, because mucus globules form and production of a satisfactory smear becomes difficult.

(Last updated December 2014)