

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Bacteriology

Peritoneal Fluids

Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) is used as an alternative to haemodialysis for the management of patients with end-stage renal failure.

General information

Collection container (including preservatives): Withdraw fluid aseptically from the injection port of the plastic dialysate bag with a sterile needle and syringe and transfer to a CE marked leak proof containers and place in sealed plastic bag.

Specimen type: In a sealed plastic bag with a request form.

Cell count = Sterile leakproof container in a sealed plastic bag containing 20mL of fluid for microscopy.
Culture = Inoculated BD BACTEC Plus Aerobic/Anaerobic (blue/purple) BC bottles.

Collection: Use aseptic technique.

Collect specimens in appropriate CE marked leak proof containers and transport specimens in sealed plastic bags.

Large volumes or whole dialysate bags may require special transportation according to local protocols. They should be transported in rigid, leakproof outer containers.

Specimen transport: Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible

Minimum volume of sample: Minimum volume of 10mL.

If blood culture bottles are used they should be inoculated aseptically with 5-10 mL of dialysate

Special precautions: Collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible.

Bacteriology performs differentials, therefore one sterile pot is required and one set of blood culture

Laboratory information

Measurement units: Cell count x 10⁶ per litre

Turnaround time:

2 – 7 working days for culture

30 – 60 mins for cell count. Telephone the laboratory in advance for urgent microscopy

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Clinical information

Factors known to significantly affect the results: If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48hr are undesirable.

(Last updated November 2024)