

3% KOH Reagent

DISCUSSION:

The formation of a string (DNA) in 3% KOH indicates that the isolate is a gram negative organism.

PROCEDURE:

1. Place a drop of 3% KOH onto a glass slide.
2. Emulsify in the KOH drop a loopful of the culture from a blood agar plate incubated for 18-24 hours.
3. Continue to mix the suspension for 60 seconds and by slowly lifting the loop, observe for the formation of a string.

INTERPRETATION:

Positive: formation of a string within 60 seconds.

Negative: failure to form a string.

PRECAUTIONS:

False positive and false negative results may occur. Run additional tests in lieu of the KOH test to verify organism.

QUALITY CONTROL:

Known controls should be tested each time the test is performed.

Positive: *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853)

Negative: *S. aureus* (ATCC 25923)



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