

C-403 Haemophilus Influenzae : A Selective Isolation Technique.
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A simple selective enrichment technique for the isolation of Haemophilus Influenzae from respiratory cultures is described in this study. Two disks of bacitracin (10 units each) plus one BVX differentiation disk (DIFCO) were added to two milliliters of tryptic soy broth. The broth was inoculated with the throat specimen, incubated for 24 hours and then plated on chocolate agar for bacterial identification. Comparisons were made between this technique and those using chocolate agar with bacitracin disks added to the surface of the medium or bacitracin incorporated into the medium. On 300 clinical specimen the isolation rate of Haemophilus Influenzae with the experimental technique was 40%. 100 specimen were also subjected to the medium containing bacitracin, yielding an isolation rate of 29%. On further 100 specimen the method of bacitracin disks added to the surface of the agar was used and showed a recovery rate of Haemophilus Influenzae of 30%. The results underline the comparability of our technique with these other established methods. A cost analysis showed a 21.7% reduction in material costs for each specimen with the new technique. Furthermore the disks have a longer shelf life than the selective agar medium and are readily available. Preparation time for the enrichment broth is minimal. The technique appears to be as reliable as other established methods but more cost-effective for the clinical isolation of Haemophilus Influenzae strains from respiratory tract specimen.