

Specimen Management in Clinical Bacteriology

Clinical Bacteriology · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. What percentage of laboratory errors typically occur in the preanalytical phase?

- A) 10%
- B) 30%
- C) 50%
- D) 70%**

2. Which material is strictly prohibited for use as a swab in microbiology?

- A) Dacron
- B) Rayon
- C) Cotton**
- D) Calcium Alginate

3. What is the gold standard anticoagulant for blood cultures?

- A) Heparin
- B) EDTA
- C) Citrate
- D) SPS**

4. What is the ideal transport time for most clinical specimens to the laboratory?

- A) Within 30 minutes to 2 hours**
- B) Within 4 to 6 hours
- C) Within 12 hours
- D) Within 24 hours

5. Which specimen is generally considered not acceptable for diagnostic culture?

- A) Clean-catch urine
- B) Suprapubic aspirate
- C) Foley catheter tip**
- D) Straight-catheterized urine

6. What is the minimum requirement for a purulent sputum specimen to be acceptable for culture?

- A) >25 PMNs/LPF and <10 SECs/LPF**
- B) <10 PMNs/LPF and >25 SECs/LPF
- C) Equal amounts of PMNs and SECs
- D) No PMNs present

7. At what temperature should specimens suspected of containing anaerobic bacteria be stored?

A) 4°C

B) Room temperature (22-25°C)

C) 37°C

D) -20°C

8. Which preservative is used for stool specimens to maintain trophozoite and cyst morphology?

A) Boric acid

B) Cary-Blair

C) Buffered formalin & PVA

D) Sodium polyanethol sulfonate

9. What is the maximum transport time for Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) samples?

A) 10 minutes

B) 15 minutes

C) 30 minutes

D) 60 minutes

10. What is the recommended concentration of SPS for blood cultures?

A) 0.01%

B) 0.025%

C) 0.05%

D) 0.1%