

PP3055 COLOREX™ VRE AGAR

Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE) produced the first reported cases of infection in the UK in 1986. The numbers of reported cases of VRE bacteraemia in England have increased by 60% since 2002 with 903 cases reported from the end of 2005 to the end of 2006.⁽¹⁾ VRE infections are especially aggressive due to the limited options available for patient treatment. More than 95% of Enterococci infections are due to two species namely, *E.faecalis* and *E.faecium*.

Both species are significant in clinical settings as the vancomycin resistance in these species is acquired and transmissible. Therefore, good infection control necessitates quick detection of the Van A and Van B genotypes.

Colorex™ VRE allows for the rapid detection of these two VRE species with a high level of specificity and sensitivity.⁽²⁾ The growth of Van C genotypes, enterococci species possessing a low-level intrinsic resistance, is suppressed or visually distinguishable.

VRE infections are especially aggressive and have been associated with mortality rates approaching 60% to 70%. They are now the second-leading cause of nosocomial infections in the U.S., and their prevalence is increasing worldwide. Resistance to vancomycin has the potential to be transferred from bacteria to bacteria. Cross-resistance is mediated by plasmids and transposons, which transfer the genes associated with resistance to other much more aggressive pathogens, such as staphylococci and streptococci. Three principal types of vancomycin resistance are found in *Enterococci*; VanA, VanB and VanC. VanA and VanB type account for most significant infections in clinical settings, involving *E.faecium* and *E.faecalis*. VanC resistance is a low-level intrinsic resistance found in other *Enterococcus* spp.

The Colorex™ VRE media is another chromogenic media in the Colorex™ range, enabling presumptive identification of vancomycin resistant Enterococci by the formation of mauve/pink coloured colonies (for VanA and VanB genotypes) and blue coloured colonies (for VanC genotypes) after 18-24 hours incubation.

⁽¹⁾ Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections Report 2007 – HPA

⁽²⁾ John Merlino et al. 2007, ASM Adelaide - Australia

Formula	gm/litre	Properties	
Peptones & yeast extract	20.0	Appearance	Firm Gel
Chromogenic mix	27.3	Colour	White
Salts	5.0	pH	6.8 ± 0.2
Agar	15.0	Storage	2 - 8°C
		Shelf Life	35 days

Additives

VRE Selective supplement	0.06g
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Quality Control Test Organisms	Ref. No.	Result
<i>Vancomycin resistant enterococcus (VRE)</i>	NCTC 12201	Pink Colonies
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	NCTC 12697	Inhibited
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	NCTC 12981	Inhibited

Recommended Incubation: Aerobically at 37°C ± 1°C for 18 - 24 hours

