

Collecting a SPUTUM sample for a CULTURE TEST

- To collect the sample, use a sterile container that has a wide opening with a screw-on lid that can be requested at a laboratory or purchased in a pharmacy.
- The sample is collected in the morning. If dentures are worn, they must be removed. Then proceed to rinse the oral cavity using a saline solution or distilled water or a mouthwash and then gargle.
- Deeply cough into the sterile container and collect at least 2 ml of sputum that comes from the lower breathing passages. Do not collect any saliva or nasal secretions (otherwise the sample is not suitable).
- Carefully screw on the lid.
- Immediately bring the sample to a laboratory (within an hour) or keep the sample in a refrigerator at +4°C for no more than two hours (certain microbial species do not survive for more than two hours from the time they are collected and certain species multiply at the expense of others therefore altering the natural quantity of the various microbial components of the sample, providing incorrect results.)
- If more than one sample was requested over a period of several days, each sample must be collected and brought to the laboratory each day within an hour from the time that the sample is collected.

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