

Central Vermont Medical Center

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

CATHETER TIP COLLECTION

PRINCIPLE

Intravascular catheters such as central lines, CVP, Hickman, Broviac, arterial lines and Swan-Ganz are submitted for culture following their removal. Under normal conditions, it would be expected that they are sterile. Urinary catheters are unacceptable for culture and will be rejected.

PROCEDURE

1. Cleanse the skin around the catheter site with alcohol.
2. Aseptically remove catheter and clip 5cm of the distal tip of the catheter directly into a sterile container.
3. Label with patient name and date of birth and submit to laboratory within 15 minutes to prevent drying. Maintain at room temperature.

Reference:

Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 10th Ed., 2011 J.Versalovic; K.Carroll; G. Funke; J. Jorgensen; M.L. Landry; D.Warnock