

Microbiology Tips:

To get the most out of your cultures here are some helpful tips:

1. Give us a history and a site.
 - This helps determine the best growth conditions for specific bacteria.
 - There are some very fussy organisms that require special media to grow and there are others that will be overgrown by commensals if we don't treat them right.
2. If you are looking for specific bacteria tell us so that we can choose the best media for their growth.
3. It is important for us to know if the patient is receiving antibiotics.
 - This can also affect how we handle the sample and interpret the results.
4. Don't forget anaerobic organisms!
 - These turn up in the most surprising places including draining tracts, pleural fluid, abscesses, osteomyelitis, the respiratory tract and abdominal cavity.
 - They are often found in mixed infections when an aerobe may be cultured, and an obligate anaerobe missed if only aerobic culture is requested.
5. What about fungi?
 - Fungal culture is separate from bacterial culture and some fungi take up to 3 weeks to grow in the lab.

