Brilliance™ Candida
Presumptive identification of Candida species

Brilliance™ Candida Agar is a selective and differential medium for the rapid presumptive identification of clinically important Candida species, allowing for more timely and targeted antifungal therapy.

Saves Time
- Correctly identifies more Candida albicans within 24 hours than competitor media
- Presumptive identification in 48 hours

Convenient & Easy to Use
- Chromogenic colour reactions on an opaque background allow easy differentiation of Candida spp., especially when mixed infections are present

Selective
- Chloramphenicol inhibits bacterial growth, even after prolonged incubation

Reduces Costs
- Some Candida species are more likely to be azole-tolerant than others, therefore, early differentiation of species allows informed judgements on the most appropriate treatment

Oxoid Brilliance Candida Agar contains two chromogenic substrates, which are cleaved by enzymes possessed by certain Candida species: hexosaminidase and alkaline phosphatase. The action of the enzymes on the chromogens results in a build-up of colour within the colony. The colour produced depends on which enzymes the organisms possess. Candida tropicalis, C. albicans and C. dubliniensis all possess hexosaminidase which results in green coloured colonies, however, other metabolic reactions of C. tropicalis produce a localised drop in pH which results in dark blue colonies. Alkaline phosphatase activity in C. krusei results in a brown or pink pigmentation, whilst C. glabrata, C. kefyr, C. parapsilosis and C. lusitaniae appear as a variety of beige/brown/yellow colours due to the mixture of natural pigmentation and some alkaline phosphatase activity. Experienced users may be able to differentiate these species by colour and colony morphology.
Since the 1980s, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of systemic, life-threatening nosocomial infections caused by opportunistic Candida spp. This can be attributed to an increase in the use of a broader range of antimicrobial agents and the high number of immuno-compromised patients. Candida species are now responsible for about 15% of all hospital-acquired infections and over 72% of nosocomial fungal infections. Candida albicans is the most commonly encountered species and is generally susceptible toazole-based drugs. However, selective pressure through the over-use of these drugs has seen a general trend towards the emergence of more azole-tolerant non-albicans species. Non-albicans species, such as C. tropicalis, C. glabrata, C. parapsilosis and C. krusei have been reported to be the causative agents in 46% of systemic candida infections.

A study of some 214 previously characterised pure clinical isolates conducted at the specialist mycology laboratory, Western Infirmary, Glasgow, reported that Brilliance Candida Agar identified more C. albicans within 24 hours than a leading competitor medium whilst demonstrating comparable performance in all other areas of the trial.

Oxoid Brilliance Candida Agar is for in vitro diagnostic use only, by experienced microbiologists. It must not be used beyond the stated expiry date, or if the product shows any sign of deterioration. Identifications are presumptive and should be confirmed.

### Inoculate plate

![Inoculate plate diagram]

Inoculate plates at 30°C. Inspect daily for growth of Candida species, for up to 72 hours.

- **C. albicans/C. dubliniensis**
  - After 24-48 hrs incubation
    - Green
  - After 24-48 hrs incubation (maximum 72hrs)
    - Blue

- **C. tropicalis**
  - After 24-48 hrs incubation
    - Maximum 72hrs
    - Dry, irregular colony shape, brown or pink

- **C. krusei**
  - After 24-48 hrs incubation
    - Variable, natural pigment
  - After 24-48 hrs incubation (maximum 72hrs)
    - C. glabrata/C. k. k.fly
      - C. parapsilosis/C. lusitaniae

Please note, organisms with an atypical enzyme pattern may give anomalous reactions on Brilliance Candida Agar.

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