COMPARISON of UTM-RT and M4-RT TRANSPORT MEDIA
for the ISOLATION of VIRUSES and CHLAMYDIA

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BACKGROUND

Successful Detection of:
- Antigens by Direct immuno assays
- Nucleic acids by conventional or Real Time PCR

Isolation of microbes in cell cultures
May be dependent upon the commercial transportation system used during specimen collection.

OBJECTIVE

To compare recovery and stability of laboratory virus strains and Chlamydia trachomatis diluted in UTM-RT from Copan and M4-RT from Remel after storage at 4° and 20° C.

MATERIALS

UTM-RT (Universal Transport Media - Room Temperature)
(Copan Diagnostics Inc.)
- Collection and Transport system for viruses, chlamydiae, mycoplasma and ureaplasma at RT
- Provided as stand alone medium tubes and Nylon flocked plastic shaft pernasal swabs in peel pouches or as collection kits with medium tube combined with Nylon flocked pernasal swab

M4-RT (MicroTest - Room Temperature)
(Remel)
- Collection and Transport system for viruses and chlamydiae at RT
- Provided as stand alone conical shaped medium tubes or packaged as a collection kit with a pernasal hard wire polyester swab and a regular size plastic shaft polyester swab

The following Laboratory Isolates were used for this comparison:
- Influenza A and B
- Parainfluenza type 1, 3
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Adenovirus
- Coxsackie B4
- Echovirus 11
- Cytomegalovirus
- Herpes Simplex type 1 and 2
- Chlamydia trachomatis
METHODS

- 100 TCD\textsubscript{50} of each organism was diluted in 10 mL of UTM-RT and M4-RT.
- For both media 1 mL was dispensed in 9 tubes containing its own swab.
- 2 shell vials were inoculated:
  - R-Mix cells for respiratory
  - H and V cells for HSV and CMV
  - McCoy cells for C. t (DHI)
- The shell vials culture were DFA stained at 22-24 hr for viruses and 48 hr for C.t

RESULTS

- RSV growth after 72 to 96 hours storage at 40°C with the Copan UTM RT but not with the Remel M4RT.
- Remel M4RT had a reduction in the number of CT inclusions after 72h and 96h storage at 200°C as compared to the Copan UTM RT.
- Decrease in recovery with time for Para 1 and CMV with the Remel M4RT.

CONCLUSIONS

- Both transport media performed similarly for most of the organisms.
- In the Copan UTM-RT RSV remained viable up to 96 hours compared to 48 hours with the M4-RT.
- Remel M4RT had a reduction in the number of CT inclusions after 72h and 96h storage at 200°C.
- Decrease in recovery with time for Para 1 and CMV with the Remel M4RT.

Results Recording:
The fluorescence was read blindly by three technologists and was graded as follows:
4+ (100%); 3+ (75%); 2+ (50%);
1+ (25%); + (<25%)

If less than 25% the number of infected cells or lesions were counted per each vial.

The mean of six reading was used.

\[\text{Influenza A (400x)} \quad \text{Influenza B (400x)}\]

\[\text{RSV (400x)} \quad \text{Echo 11 (400x)}\]
RESULTS
RESULTS

RSV

Parainfluenza 1

Chlamydia Trachomatis

Cytomegalovirus

RSV growth after 72 to 96 hours at 4°C and 20°C with the Copan UTM-RT. At 72 to 96 hours no RSV growth at 4°C and lower at 20°C with Remel M4-RT.

More decrease in viral recovery with time for Para 1 with the Remel M4RT, but less with the Copan UTM-RT.

Remel M4RT had a reduction in the number of CT inclusions after 72h and 96h storage at 20°C as compared to the Copan UTM RT.

More decrease in viral recovery with time for CMV with the Remel M4RT, but less with the Copan UTM-RT.