

GROUP A STREP

(Streptococcus pyogenes)

By Nucleic Acid Amplified Test (NAAT)

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Group Strep A is the most common cause of acute pharyngitis. Symptoms include purulent exudate, fever, and anterior cervical adenopathy. Rapid diagnosis is important to relieve symptoms and to prevent post-infection sequelae. In addition to group A Strep, reports in the literature suggest that groups C and G streptococci may also cause pharyngitis in adults, with symptoms that are indistinguishable from group A Strep infections. Rapid antigen tests have the advantage of immediate results, but lack sensitivity, and therefore require culture backup. They also do not detect group C or G. While culture is both sensitive and specific, results are not available until 24-72 hours after specimen collection, leading to delays in treatment.

Group A strep Nucleic Acid Amplified Testing (NAAT) provides highly accurate and timely results for group A, as well as group C or G (reported as “Not Group A”). Testing is performed 7 days per week on 3rd shift. Results are available early the following morning.

Key Benefits

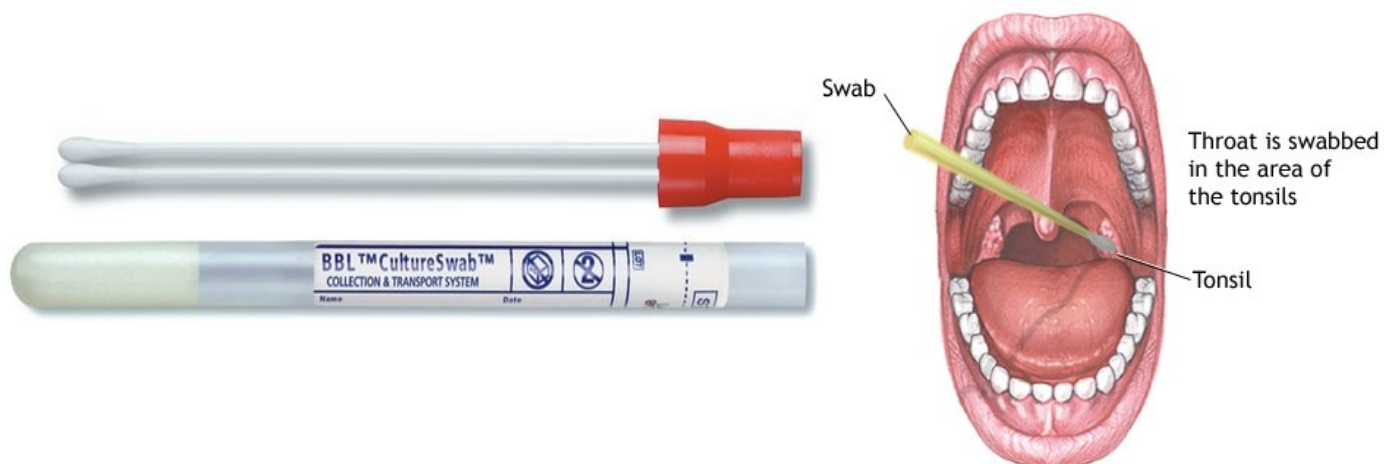
- Improved sensitivity as compared to rapid antigen testing and culture
- Testing is performed 7 days per week, providing greatly improved turnaround time when compared to culture

Test	Sensitivity	Turnaround Time	Susceptibility Testing Routinely Performed	Detects Group C&G
Rapid Antigen	31-70%	Less than 1 hour	No	No
Traditional Culture	90-100%	Up to 72 hours	No	Yes
NAAT	95-99%	18-24 hours	No	Yes



Throat Swab Collection Guidelines

1. Ask patient to open mouth with head tilted back.
2. Depress the tongue.
3. Using a BD red-capped dual swab with bacterial transport, swab the posterior pharynx and both tonsils vigorously.
4. Withdraw swab and insert into bacterial transport. Cap securely.



Strep Group A Nucleic Acid Amplified Test	
Mnemonic	STRA NAAT
CPT / Test Code	87651 / 6650016
Specimen	Throat Swab
Container	BD Bacterial Culture Swab with liquid transport media
Spec Prep	Using a culture swab, collect specimen from both tonsillar areas, posterior pharynx, and any areas of inflammation.
Storage	Refrigerate or room temperature
Stability Refrigerated	7 days