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## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Catalog Number: 1003117  
**Columbia Agar Base**

### *For the cultivation of fastidious and non-fastidious microorganisms*

Columbia Agar Base is a highly nutritive general purpose medium for the cultivation of fastidious organisms, especially when supplemented with plain or chocolate blood. It can also be used as a selective isolation medium by adding antimicrobial agents.

#### Approximate formula in g/L

Polypeptone	10.0	Biotryptase	10.0
Heart Peptone	3.0	Corn Starch	1.0
Sodium Chloride	5.0	Agar	13.5

Final pH 7.3 0.2

#### Preparation

Suspend 42.5 g of the medium in one liter of distilled or deionized water. Mix well and heat with frequent agitation. Boil for one minute. Dispense and sterilize in an autoclave at 121°C (15 lbs. psi) for 15 minutes. Cool to 45-50°C and add 5-10% sterile defibrinated sheep or rabbit blood if desired.

#### Uses

Columbia Agar Base is used extensively as a medium base for a variety of culture formulations in medical bacteriology. The haemolytic reactions in blood agar are genuinely defined. The majority of the common pathogenic bacteria, however, grow well without the addition of blood. Columbia Agar Base is used satisfactorily in other formulas supplemented by enrichments and /or various inhibitory agents.

With the addition of 5-10% sterile defibrinated sheep, rabbit or human blood and, especially when the patient is receiving antibiotic treatment, addition of 1.0 ml of VCN suspension and 1.0 ml of Pronadisa Polyenrichment to 100 ml of medium. Columbia Agar Base becomes an excellent chocolate agar, which can be used to isolate pathogenic *gonococci* and *meningococci*, as good or better than Thayer-Martin Medium.

#### Availability

500 gram size, catalog # 1003117

#### References:

– Ellner, Stossel, Drakeford and Vasi, *Am. J. Clin. Path.*, **45**, 502-504 (1966).