

08086 Nitrate Reagent Disks

Nitrate Reagent Disks are used to detect an organism's ability to reduce nitrate. The test involves detection of the enzyme nitrate reductase which causes the reduction of nitrate in the presence of a suitable electron donor to nitrite, which can be tested by an appropriate colorimetric reagent.

Composition:

(1 package contains 50 disks.)

Sterile, 6mm diameter filter paper disks impregnated with Nitrate reagent.

Storage:

Store in the freezer below 4°C in the containers provided. Allow to equilibrate to room temperature before opening then return to freezer storage immediately after use.

Directions:

Grow test culture on suitable Agar medium plate containing nitrate substrate. Place Nitrate Reagent Disks on suspected colony.

Prinziple:

Reduction of nitrate (NO₃) to nitrite (NO₂) and to nitrogen gas (N₂) usually takes place under anaerobic conditions, in which an organism derives its oxygen from nitrate (1). Most facultative anaerobes can reduce nitrate in the absence of oxygen. Almost all Enterobacteriaceae reduce nitrate. This anaerobic respiration is an oxidation process in which inorganic substances furnish oxygen to serve as an electron acceptor to provide energy (2). The end product possibilities of nitrate reduction are many depending upon the bacterial species. The more common end product is molecular nitrogen via nitrite reduction (2). Depending upon environmental conditions, these products are usually not further oxidised or assimilated into cellular metabolism, but are excreted into the surrounding medium.



1. *Aceneto. calcoaceticus*
2. *S. typhimurium*

Interpretation of results:

Colour change to red-pink of disk indicates positive nitrate reduction reaction.

Quality control:

The list below illustrates a range of performance control strains in routine use:

| Test Organisms (ATCC) | Growth | Nitrate reduction |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| <i>Aceneto. calcoaceticus</i> (19606) | +++ | - |
| <i>E.aerogenes</i> (13048) | +++ | + |
| <i>E. coli</i> (25922) | +++ | + |
| <i>Sal. Serotype typhimurium</i> (14028) | +++ | + |

References:

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2. R.Y. Stainer, M. Douderoff, E.A. Adelberg, The Microbial World, 2nd ed., Prentice-Hall, 116-117 (1963)
3. Wideman P.A., Citronbaum D.M., Sutter V.L., Simple disk technique for detection of nitrate reduction in anaerobic bacteria, J Clin Micro, 5(3):315-9 (1977)
4. Lennette E.H., Balows A., Hausler W.J., et al., Manual of clinical microbiology, 4th ed. Washington, DC: ASM (1985)
5. Baron E.J., Finegold S.M., Bailey and Scott's diagnostic microbiology, 8th ed., St Louis: Mosby, (1990)