

# DN'ase Agar

## BC 2095

An identification medium for *Staphylococcus aureus*, based on the ability of coagulase-positive species to split DNA. DN'ases produced by the organisms hydrolyse the DNA molecule to a mixture of smaller mono and poly nucleotides. DiSalvo observed perfect correlation between coagulase activity and DN'ase production using *Staph. aureus* strains from clinical specimens. When hydrochloric acid is added to the medium to precipitate the DNA a clear zone is observed around the colonies producing DNA'se

### Formula grams per litre

Peptone mixture	20.0
Sodium chloride	5.0
Desoxyriboneucleic acid (DNA)	2.0
Bacteriological Agar	13.0

**pH:** 7.3 +/- 0.2

**Appearance:** Pale cream, clear gel.

### Preparation

Suspend 40 grams of powder in 1 litre of deionised water. Allow to soak for 10 minutes then bring to the boil with frequent swirling. Sterilise at 121°C for 15 minutes. Cool to 47 °C and pour into petri dishes

### Storage of Prepared Media

Plates should be stored in the dark at 4-8°C. Plates should be used within 1 week.

### Quality Control Organisms- Suggestions

<i>S.aureus</i>	ATCC 25923	
<i>S.epidermidis.</i>	ATCC 19990	

### Directions for use:

Heavily inoculate a small area. It is possible to test at least four organisms on one 90 mm plate. Incubate at 37°C aerobically for 18-24 hours.

Having obtained good growth flood the plate with 1N hydrochloric acid. DNA in the medium will be precipitated. DN'ase producing organisms will be surrounded by a zone of clearing. Gram +ve , catalyse +ve cocci which produce DN'ase can be provisionally be classified as *S.aureus*. This should be confirmed by carrying out a tube coagulase test.

### References

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