

## Comparison of media for the primary isolation of *Haemophilus ducreyi*

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### **Abstract:**

The rates of isolation of *Haemophilus ducreyi* from patients with presumed chancroid has been low, and improved cultural techniques are required. We determined the isolation rates of *H. ducreyi* from 38 patients with clinical chancroid and compared gonococcal agar supplemented with bovine hemoglobin to Mueller-Hinton agar supplemented with chocolate horse blood, each with and without 5% fetal calf serum. The rate of isolation and the qualitative and quantitative growth of strains was best on gonococcal agar with added fetal calf serum (GC-HgS). However, three strains were isolated only on Mueller-Hinton base (MH-base). GC-HgS was compared with MH-HB for the isolation of *H. ducreyi* from 201 patients with clinical chancroid. Seventy-one percent of cultures were positive on GC-HgS, and 61% were positive on MH-HB ( $P$  less than .005); however, 10% of cultures were positive only on MH-HB. The use of the two media together increased the yield of positive cultures to 81%. Thus maximal rates of isolation of *H. ducreyi* from clinical specimens requires the use of two media, GC-HgS and MH-HB.