

Anaerobic Culture

- Investigate all deep-seated lesions or abscesses for anaerobes.
- When taking specimens for anaerobic culture, aspirate the sample using a syringe where possible.
- Swabs are not preferred specimens as their use may lower yield of anaerobic bacteria. If used, they must be placed in transport media directly after collection and sent to the laboratory as quickly as possible.

Suitability of various specimens for anaerobic culture

Acceptable material (method of collection)	Unacceptable material (method of collection)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirate (by needle and syringe) • Bartholin's gland inflammation or secretions • Blood (venipuncture) • Bone marrow (aspirate) • Bronchoscopic secretions (protected specimen brush) • Culdocentesis fluid (aspirate) • Fallopian tube fluid or tissue (aspirate/biopsy) • IUD,^a for Actinomyces spp. • Nasal sinus (aspirate) • Placenta tissue (via cesarean delivery) • Surgery (aspirate, tissue) • Transtracheal aspirate • Abscess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronchoalveolar lavage washing • Cervical secretions • Endotracheal secretions (aspirate) • Lochia secretions • Nasopharyngeal swab, throat swab • Perineal swab • Prostatic or seminal fluid • Sputum (expectorated or induced) • Stool or rectal swabs samples • Tracheostomy secretions • Urethral secretions • Urine (voided or from catheter) • Vaginal or vulvar secretions (swab)

^aIUD, intrauterine device