

Microbiology Rotation - Objectives

Patient Care

Procedural Skills

1. Objectives

Primarily to become familiar with the methods used by clinical microbiologists to recover, isolate, identify and characterize microorganisms from clinical specimens. They will not be expected to become as proficient at these skills as medical technologists.

2. Supervision/Assessment

This is documented by daily observation by the technologists, and is communicated to the division faculty by those individuals. This is in turn communicated to the residents by the faculty, both in verbal and written form (the latter is a part of the resident's official evaluation at the end of the rotation). They may be from time to time given "unknown" organisms to identify. Daily "sign-out" sessions are held by the faculty.

Interpretive Skills

1. Objectives

- a. Familiarity with the expected components of normal and abnormal flora from non-sterile sites
- b. Usefulness of commonly used primary plating media and choice of appropriate media by specimen type
- c. Familiarity with incubation requirements for commonly used media and commonly encountered organisms
- d. Familiarity with the colony morphology of commonly encountered organisms on primary plating media
- e. Ability to recognize broad categories of fungi on primary plating media (eg., yeasts, filamentous fungi, presence/absence of pigmented forms, soluble diffusing pigments)
- f. Ability to recognize broad categories of mycobacteria on subculture to solid media (eg., probably M. tuberculosis group, non-chromogens, photochromogens, scotochromogens, probable "rapid-growers")

2. Plan

These skills will be stressed at daily bench, "sign-out", tutorial, lecture and reading sessions. Occasional unknowns and "pop" questioning during the rotation will also prompt them.

3. Supervision/Assessment

These skills will be taught, assessed and communicated in the same manner as the procedural skills.

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