**Microbiology News Update – New culture method for *Mycobacteria spp*.**

**5th March 2018**

We are pleased to announce the introduction of the BD MGIT – a new liquid culture method for *Mycobacterium spp* which will replace solid media. We will switch over to this test on 5th March 2018.

The BD BACTEC MGIT Instrument is an *in vitro* diagnostic instrument designed for the rapid and automated detection of *Mycobacteria spp* from clinical specimens (except blood).

Positive culture tubes are examined by ZN and Auramine staining for the presence of acid-fast bacilli (AFBs), and then referred to the Mycobacterial Reference Laboratory for further identification and sensitivity testing. We will continue to inform clinicians/wards/public health at every stage of the diagnostic pathway.

All types of clinical specimens, pulmonary as well as extrapulmonary are accepted (except blood).

This method has 2 advantages over traditional culture:

1. It is faster – we expect to isolate *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in 1-4 weeks (with ~half by 2 weeks) rather than 4-6 weeks. This means we will issue a negative report at 6 weeks – this will be the final report.
2. It is more sensitive – this method will (likely) detect all *Mycobacteria spp*. In the short term we will continue to culture on LJ slopes to further validate this methodology.



Any comments / questions please contact me in Microbiology:

Cressida Auckland

Consultant Medical Microbiologist

Royal Devon and Exeter

[cressida.auckland@nhs.net](mailto:cressida.auckland@nhs.net)

Or look on our website:

<https://www.exeterlaboratory.com/>