

**R369**

**Publication Only**

**Diagnostics, other than Molecular: Diagnostic/laboratory methods (other than molecular)**  
**Detection of *Streptococcus agalactiae* using Thermo Scientific™ Brilliance™ GBS Agar**

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Objectives

To compare the performance of Thermo Scientific™ *Brilliance*™ GBS Agar (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and chromID™ StreptoB Agar (bioMérieux) for the detection of *Streptococcus agalactiae* from vaginal swabs.

Methods

Three hundred vaginal swabs taken from pregnant women at 35-38 weeks gestation were tested. Swabs were inoculated onto *Brilliance* GBS Agar and chromID StreptoB Agar. All plates were incubated aerobically at 36±1°C for 18-24 hr. Any presumptive GBS positive colonies and other coloured colonies were identified using MALDI-TOF (Bruker).

Results

Sensitivity of *Brilliance* GBS Agar (95.4%) was statistically significantly higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) than chromID StreptoB Agar (76.4%). Negative predictive value (NPV) was also higher on *Brilliance* GBS Agar (99.2%) compared to chromID StreptoB Agar (94.9%). Percentage inhibition of non-target organisms was considerably higher on *Brilliance* GBS Agar (61.7%) compared to chromID StreptoB Agar (43.3%), indicating that *Brilliance* GBS Agar grew far fewer non-target organisms than chromID StreptoB Agar.

Conclusion

Sensitivity of *Brilliance* GBS Agar was statistically significantly higher than chromID StreptoB Agar; *Brilliance* GBS Agar detected more GBS than chromID StreptoB Agar. *Brilliance* GBS Agar inhibited more non-target flora than chromID StreptoB Agar, allowing easier observation of GBS and interpretation of the medium.