

Wound Culture Collection and Evaluation



Wounds are not a sterile site, so proper collection technique and clinical assessment of the wound are vital for identification of a pathogen requiring antibiotics.

Culture Collection

Aseptically culture wound if it shows signs and symptoms of active infection: erythema, edema, pain, heat, increased exudate or odor, etc.

Do



- **Cleanse the wound by irrigating with saline and removing debris**
- **Levine Technique: swab 1 cm² clean wound tissue for 5 seconds with enough pressure to produce fluid**

Don't



- **Break aseptic technique**
- **Culture necrotic tissue**
- **Allow swab to touch gloves or other objects**

Culture Evaluation and Treatment

Ensure timely delivery of specimen to the lab, per facility process, to keep it stable and promote culture growth.



In the case of polymicrobial cultures, attempt to identify the primary causative pathogen vs common colonizers e.g. *Staph epidermidis*.



Use the shortest effective duration of therapy when antibiotics are indicated.