



POLICY: To obtain sputum samples safely and effectively in pediatric patients

PROCEDURE: Induced Sputum Collection in Pediatric Patients

1. Premedicate with albuterol 2.5 mg/3mL (0.083%) solution – 3 mL via nebulizer to induce bronchodilation and better facilitate delivery of hypertonic saline. This can help prevent the development of bronchospasm during delivery of hypertonic saline. An MDI with a mask and spacer is also an acceptable substitution.
2. Give 5 mL of 3% hypertonic saline solution via nebulizer over period of at least 10 minutes as prolonged administration has been shown to yield better samples.
3. If patient has copious nasal secretions, consider nasal suction with olive tip.
4. Obtain mucus specimen trap with suction catheter appropriate for patient size. Measure from tip of nose to the tragus for depth of catheter insertion and obtain sample via suction of the nasopharynx. The goal is to induce a gag and then a cough. Sample is expected to be blood-tinged.
5. Place specimen in appropriate collection container for desired test.
 - a. For r/o pulmonary tuberculosis, collect 3 induced sputum samples at least 8 hours apart – one must be first morning sample. Send for Acid Fast Bacilli Smear and Culture. Sample must be a minimum of 5 ml, may add sterile water to achieve desired volume.
 - b. Standard sputum cultures do not have a minimum volume and can be placed in a sterile specimen cup.

***Contraindications to above procedure:** oxygen saturation of <92% despite supplemental oxygen therapy, inability to protect the airways, severe bronchospasm, or designation as inappropriate by the clinician for another reason (eg, midface trauma). After exclusion or resolution of these conditions, sputum induction can be considered.