

For Immediate Release:

New Media Screens For Bacterial Resistance to Carbapenems

HardyCHROM™ Chromogenic Culture Media Screens For Carbapenemase-Producing Bacteria by Simple Color Change



Carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* colonies growing on HardyCHROM™ Carbapenemase. Incubated aerobically for 24 hours at 35 deg. C. Photo by Daniel Berger

Santa Maria, California; September, 2011 – Hardy Diagnostics, an ISO certified biomedical firm, is pleased to announce the release of HardyCHROM™ Carbapenemase, a selective chromogenic medium recommended for the primary screening and differentiation of carbapenemase-producing bacteria.

Carbapenemase enzymes hydrolyze beta-lactam agents, reducing the ability of widely-used carbapenems (such as meropenem, imipenem, and ertapenem) to fight infection. Resistance to carbapenems has become an increasing problem worldwide, especially in the United States.

The bacterial enzymes responsible for carbapenem resistance are encoded by genes (such as *bla_{KPC}*) located on plasmids that can easily be transferred between bacteria, leading to rapid spread of carbapenem resistance. Carbapenems are considered to be the last line of defense against some invasive and serious infections. They are commonly used to treat life-threatening infections that are caused by gram-negative, drug-resistant bacterial pathogens.

It is important for hospitals to quickly identify carbapenemase-producing bacteria in order to implement effective control measures to prevent the spread of these multiple-drug-resistant

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(MDR) bacteria throughout the hospital environment. There is an increased risk of nosocomial infections (with high mortality rates) when carbapenemase-producing bacteria are present. This creates a need for increased monitoring of antibiotic usage among patients.

HardyCHROM™ Carbapenemase includes selective agents to inhibit the growth of yeasts, gram-positive organisms, and gram-negative organisms that do not produce carbapenemase. A mixture of chromogens permit detection and differentiation of isolated organisms.

- Carbapenemase-producing *Acinetobacter*, *Salmonella*, and *Stenotrophomonas* spp. produce colonies that are smooth and off-white in color.
- Carbapenemase-producing *Citrobacter* spp. produce dark blue colonies often with a rose halo in the surrounding media.
- Carbapenemase-producing *Escherichia coli* produces colonies that are rose to magenta in color, with darker pink centers.
- Carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter*, and *Serratia* spp. produce large, dark blue colonies.
- Carbapenemase-producing *Pseudomonas* spp. produce colorless to light yellow-green, translucent colonies which may have a slight iridescence with crinkled edges.

The new HardyCHROM™ Carbapenemase plate provides a simple and effective method to perform a primary screen from a specimen suspected of containing carbapenemase-producing bacteria.

ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS

Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. The company manufactures over 3,500 products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi from its Santa Maria, California headquarters. Currently over 7,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy Diagnostics throughout the nation.

The company was founded in 1980 by Jay Hardy, a Clinical Laboratory Scientist from Santa Barbara, CA. Today, Hardy Diagnostics maintains eight distribution centers throughout the U.S. and exports products to over 40 foreign distributors.

The company's mission is to partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease. For more information, visit www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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