

## Fast differentiator (alcohol / acetone)

REF. 361510

Differential staining of bacteria



IFU048A-RAL

For professional use only.  
Please read all information carefully before using this device.

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### Intended Use

Fast differentiator (alcohol / acetone) is intended to be used in combination with other gram staining devices for differential staining of bacteria prior microscopic examination.

If applicable, RAL Diagnostics recommends using the associated RAL Diagnostics products and cannot guarantee that the expected results will be achieved if used in combination with products of other brands.

### Principle

Fast differentiator (alcohol / acetone) in combination with Crystal violet oxalate, Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution and Safranin allow Gram-Hücker staining or Gram-Nicolle Staining in combination with Carbolic gentian violet, Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution and Ziehl Carbolic Fuchsin 1/10.

Gram-Hücker and Gram-Nicolle staining are differential staining based on the permeability of the bacterial wall. In these techniques, the bacterial wall is not stained but its structure permits classification of Gram-positive or Gram-negative bacteria. Lugol solution allows the formation of an intracellular complex with Crystal violet oxalate or Carbolic gentian violet. A more important permeability of Gram-negative bacteria wall allows alcohol to eliminate this complex. Gram-negative bacteria can fix Safranin or Ziehl Carbolic Fuchsin 1/10 and then appear stained orangey-pink by Safranin or pink by Ziehl Carbolic Fuchsin 1/10. Gram-positive bacteria, characterized by a less important permeability of wall, are not discolored by Alcohol and remain stained violet.

## Device description

### Fast differentiator (alcohol / acetone)

Clear colorless solution

REF. 361510-1000 1 X 1.0 L

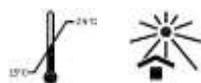
REF. 361510-2500 1 X 2.5 L

For a specific batch, refer to the analysis certificate of the batch available at [my.ral-diagnostics.fr](http://my.ral-diagnostics.fr).

## Storage

Storage temperature: 15-25°C away from light.

Bottle shelf life before and after opening: refer to expiry date on label.



## Hazard classification and safety information

### Fast differentiator (alcohol / acetone)

Danger: H225 - Highly flammable liquid and vapour. H319 - Causes serious eye irritation. H336 - May cause drowsiness or dizziness. P210 - Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking. P261 - Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray. P280 - Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection. P312 - Call a POISON CENTRE or doctor if you feel unwell. P337+P313 - If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention



<b>CONT</b>	CH3COCH3; butan-2-one; isopropyl alcohol
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## Personnel qualification

All samples and products must be handled by qualified and authorized personnel, using individual or collective protection, in accordance with the national directives in force in the laboratories. Personnel must also be aware of the classification of hazardous materials indicated on the label and the safety data sheet (available at [my.ral-diagnostics.fr](http://my.ral-diagnostics.fr)).

The specimen must be treated in accordance with procedures available in the laboratory and required by national authorities.

The diagnosis must be conducted by qualified and authorized personnel, in accordance with the procedures in force within the laboratory.

## Specific equipment and reagents required but not provided

Microscope slides and these following RAL Diagnostics devices:

Crystal violet oxalate REF. 361490,

Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution REF. 367400,

Safranin REF. 361500,

Carbolic gentian violet REF. 320960 and

Ziehl Carbolic Fuchsin 1/10 REF. 364540

SUREFIX REF: 336000-0050

This equipment may vary depending on the protocol. Please refer to the relevant protocol (see the section operating procedure) to ensure that you have the necessary equipment to carry out tests.

## Operating procedure

The equipment used for sample processing must comply with the supplier's instructions for use.

### Sample preparation

The following example is for bacterial sample preparation, specimen must treat in accordance with procedures available in the laboratory and promulgated by national authorities.

Pre-treatment of sample from liquid culture media: Take around 300 to 400 µL of liquid culture medium (including a few beads if possible) and pour it into a microtube. Centrifuge for 1 min at 10 000 rpm and discard supernatant. Then add 2 to 3 drops of physiological saline to the microtube and vortex or stir with a loop. The sample is now ready to be smeared.

Manual bacterial smear: made a thin film of bacteria sample and leave the slide to dry at room temperature. Then bacterial smear can be fixed with mild heat source (Bunsen burner or hot plate) or chemically fixed with chemical fixative (methanol, ethanol, acetic acid, or formalin...)

***NB: Never pass through the flame a smear that is not entirely dry, this could cause cracklings and dissemination of bacteria (creation of aerosols).***

If necessary, the two fixations can be combined.

Manual bacterial smear from liquid or solid culture: Apply a drop of SUREFIX on a slide and with a loop place on top of the SUREFIX drop, the preparation from a liquid culture (as described above) or a colony from a solid culture. Mix SUREFIX drop and the sample and made a uniform smear layer. Eventually Leave the smear to air dry before placing the slide on a hot plate for 30 min at a temperature of 80 °C.

### Reagents and instruments preparation

No preparation needed. The solutions are ready to use.

## Protocols

The staining steps of the protocols indicated below consist of a successive covering of the slides with the different staining reagents.

For the staining steps, place slide on a stand with fixed smear on top.

According to the thickness of the smear the differentiator, it may be necessary to increase the discoloring in the differentiator time.

**Gram-Hücker protocol for bacterial smear staining - Manual covering method with Fast differentiator - Manual microscopic analysis**

Processing time: 02 min 32 s

Steps	Reagent	Time [mm: ss]	Indications
Stain	Crystal violet oxalate	01:00	No
Rinse	Water	No	Get rid of reagent and remove the excess
Rinse	Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution	No	A jet of Lugol to remove rinsing water
Stain	Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution	00:30	Can be extended to 1 min
Rinse	Water	No	Thoroughly rinse
Discolor	Fast Differentiator	00:02	Can be extend to 5 sec
Rinse	Water	No	Quickly
Stain	Safranin	01:00	No
Rinse	Water	No	Quickly
Dry	No	≥03:00	No

**Gram-Nicolle protocol for bacterial smear staining - Manual covering method with Fast differentiator - Manual microscopic analysis**

Processing time: 02 min 32 s

Steps	Reagent	Time [mm: ss]	Indications
Stain	Carbolic Gentian Violet	01:00	Can be extended to 5 min
Rinse	Water	No	Get rid of reagent and remove the excess
Rinse	Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution	No	A jet of Lugol to remove rinsing water
Stain	Lugol, PVP-stabilized solution	00:30	Can be extended to 1 min
Rinse	Water	No	Thoroughly rinse
Discolor	Fast Differentiator	00:02	Can be extend to 5 sec
Rinse	Water	No	Quickly
Stain	Ziehl Carbolic Fuchsin 1/10	01:00	No
Rinse	Water	No	Quickly
Dry	No	≥03:00	No

## Expected results

### Bacterial smear for Gram-Hücker staining

**Gram-positive Bacteria:** violet

**Gram-negative Bacteria:** orangey – pink

### Bacterial smear for Gram-Nicolle staining

**Gram-positive Bacteria:** violet

**Gram-negative Bacteria:** pink

If observed results vary from those expected, please contact RAL Diagnostics technical service through your usual supplier for assistance.

## Performance

This medical device is state of the art. Its analytical performance, scientific validity and medical relevance are assessed in the CE marking review.

To ensure product performance, use clean and dry laboratory equipment.

The laboratory is responsible for notifying the manufacturer and state competent authority of any serious incident relating to the use of the medical device.

## User quality Control

The following example is for bacterial samples.

RAL Diagnostics recommend using a Gram positive and a Gram negative sample for reagents quality control at reagents renewal, for each staining set or at least for the first staining cycle if a stain is performed multiple times daily.

These slides can be prepared in advance and heat-fixed appropriately for storage.

This control could be done using Gram positive and Gram negative samples from identified patient samples or using a known Gram positive and Gram negative strains (such as *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923 and *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922). The strains used must be identified, avoid Gram variable species.

Staining results for each cell type must also be compliant with this manual expected results.

These quality controls depend on the authorization by qualified personnel.

Users remain responsible for determining the appropriate quality control procedures for their laboratory and for complying with applicable laboratory regulations.

## Other products

For more information contact your usual supplier.

## Recommendations, notes, and troubleshooting

### Products appearance

If the appearance of the products differs from the description above, do not use it and contact RAL Diagnostics technical service through your usual supplier for assistance.

### Procedures notes

To prevent products degradation, please comply with the storage and handling recommendations specified in this manual.

According to the thickness of the smear, it may be necessary to increase the discoloring in the differentiator time.

One can improve the sharpness of the observation with a green light-microscope (a green filter or a yellow one superposed on the blue filter). The contrast depends on the way one carries out the differentiation.

The rinsing liquid for staining can be distilled, demineralized, or tap water.

### Products stability

Every RAL Diagnostics product can be used until the expiry date indicated on, in its original packaging if it is still hermetically sealed.

### Staining stability

Staining quality and reproducibility depend on the correct use of the products. Staining conducted according to these recommendations will remain stable for several days.

### Instructions for cleaning and waste disposal

All biological samples, effluents and used consumables should be considered potentially hazardous.



To avoid any risk, apply the following instructions: dispose of samples, effluents and consumables in accordance with laboratory standards and applicable national and local standards and regulations.

Chemical and biological waste must be collected and processed by specialized, registered companies.

### Table of symbols and abbreviations

Depending on the product, you may find the following symbols on the device or the packaging material.

GHS PICTOGRAMS	INTERPRETATION
	Explosive
	Flammable
	Oxidizer
	Compressed gas
	Corrosive
	Toxic
	Harmful
	Health Hazard
	Environmental Hazard
	No labeling applicable

SYMBOL	INTERPRETATION
	Batch code
	Serial number
	Catalogue reference
	Date of manufacture
	Use up to
	Unique device identifier
	Manufacturer
	Importer
	Entity distributing the medical advice in the region concerned
	CE marking device
	In vitro diagnostic medical device
	Authorized Representative in the European Community
	Authorized Representative in Switzerland
	Complies with UK guidelines
	Do not use if packaging is damaged
	Keep away from light
	Temperature limit: 15-25°C
	Temperature limit: 15-30°C
	Keep dry
	Box: handling upwards
	Fragile
	Sterilised by irradiation
	Single sterile barrier system with outer protective packaging
	Sterile and radiation-sterilised barrier suit
	Do not reuse
	Do not resterilize
	Contents sufficient for n tests
	Hazardous material contained
	Consult instructions for use
	Use
	After opening, use within XX months
	The product must not be used in conjunction with an automatic colouring machine
	Indicates a medical device that contains potentially carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMR) substances, or substances classified as endocrine disruptors

## Bibliography

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**LANGERON M.**, *Précis de microscopie*, Masson & Cie, 6ème éd., 1942, p. 553-556.

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## Change tracking

Date	Version	Changes
05/2022	IFU048A-RAL	IVDR (EU) 2017/746 compliance

