

Clinical Bulletin: DxWound technical specifications

DxWound is a DNA-based diagnostic tool that provides a rapid and comprehensive assessment of the microbial environment of a wound. The tests identify aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, fungi, and antibiotic resistance genes plus a virulence gene specific to *Staphylococcus aureus*, and compile the information into a single report delivered, generally, one business day after receipt of the specimen. These test results may help clinicians rapidly determine course of antimicrobial therapy for patients with wounds/suspected skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs).

DxWound Menu

DxWound offers microbial tests based on frequency in skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs), as well as evidence of pathogenicity and include bacteria which are listed as antibiotic resistant threats in the U.S. by the CDC.¹⁻⁵

Indications for Ordering

DxWound can be used for any patient suspected of having a SSTI or with clinical signs of a SSTI.

Specimen collection

DxWound utilizes a swab for sample collection. The process is simple. First, cleanse and debride the wound as necessary. The Levine technique is then suggested for collection of the sample: the swab is rotated over a 1cm² area with sufficient pressure to express the liquid from within the wound tissue (see the Specimen Collection Manual for detailed instructions). The swab is then placed in a transport tube containing an inactivating solution that kills microorganisms at the same time as protecting the microbial DNA, thus preserving the wound microbiome in time at the point of specimen collection. The sample is stable for testing for up to 7 days at temperature levels ranging from 39°F to 140°F and for 30 days at room temperature.

Swabs collected in this manner perform equivalently to tissue specimens: in a pilot study conducted by Millennium Health of 71 chronic wounds, a comparison was performed between tissue biopsy and swab samples both tested using PCR technology (DxWound). The results found greater than 98% concordance between matched swab and tissue biopsy specimens. This result is consistent with published studies.⁶

The ability to detect target organisms depends on the proper collection and handling of the wound swab specimen. Variation in specimen quality may occur due to lack of bioburden or poor collection technique.

Technology

DxWound is a PCR-based assay which analyzes microbial DNA using species-specific DNA sequences, such as 16S rRNA sequences for bacterial detection. In addition, sequences specific to virulence gene and antibiotic resistance genes are also analyzed. DNA is detected directly from the patient specimen without culture enrichment.

DxWound Test Menu

AEROBIC BACTERIA, GRAM-POSITIVE	FUNGI
Enterococcus faecalis	Aspergillus flavus
Enterococcus faecium	Aspergillus fumigatus
Mycobacterium abscessus	Aspergillus niger
Mycobacterium chelonae	Candida albicans
Staphylococcus aureus	Candida glabrata
Staphylococcus epidermidis (CoNS)	Candida krusei
Staphylococcus lugdunensis (CoNS)	Candida parapsilosis
Streptococcus agalactiae (Group B)	Candida tropicalis
Streptococcus pyogenes (Group A)	ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES
STAPHYLOCOCCAL VIRULENCE GENE	Carbapenemase
lukF-PV (Panton-Valentine Leukocidin, PVL)	IMP
AEROBIC BACTERIA, GRAM-NEGATIVE	KPC
Acinetobacter baumannii	NDM
Citrobacter freundii	OXA-48
Enterobacter aerogenes	SME
Enterobacter cloacae	VIM
Escherichia coli	Extended-Spectrum β-Lactamase
Klebsiella oxytoca	CTX-M
Klebsiella pneumoniae	SHV
Proteus mirabilis/vulgaris	Macrolide-Lincosamide-Streptogramin B Resistance
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	ermA
ANAEROBIC BACTERIA, GRAM-POSITIVE	ermB
Clostridium perfringens	Oxacillin/Methicillin Resistance
Clostridium septicum	mecA
ANAEROBIC BACTERIA, GRAM-NEGATIVE	Vancomycin Resistance
Bacteroides fragilis	vanA
Prevotella intermedia	vanB
Prevotella oralis	

A series of commonly used therapeutic substances were tested and did not interfere with the DxWound PCR assay. These included dressings (e.g Puracol collagen dressing, Solosite wound gel), antiseptics (e.g., silver dressings, Iodosorb gel, Hydrofera Blue® dressing), analgesics (e.g., lidocaine) and topical antibiotic treatment (e.g., triple antibiotic ointment, mupirocin, silver sulfadiazine). In addition, hemoglobin was tested and did not interfere with the assay. It remains possible that other substances applied to the wound could interfere with the assay.

All DxWound tests have $\geq 95\%$ accuracy and $\geq 99\%$ reproducibility. The accuracy and reproducibility of DxWound tests were defined by either comparison to culture reports for wound samples and/or by correct identification of known organisms or antibiotic resistance genes in reference samples obtained from the FDA-CDC antimicrobial resistance isolate bank, commercial vendors, and research laboratories.

Reporting

All test results are reported, generally, within 1 business day of specimen receipt. These results are available in the online portal as a DxWound Report.

Limitations

- DxWound is targeted to a specific set of known wound/SSTI pathogens and is not designed to detect all microbes. Rarely, false negatives or false positives could be generated. A false positive is possible when a different organism is present due to sequence similarity between the tested organism and the actual organism present in the sample. For example, based on sequence similarity, when *Serratia marcescens* is present, the test may result in a Detected result for *Citrobacter freundii*. Other cross-reactivities may apply. In addition, a false negative could be caused by rare genetic variations which could interfere with detection of a microorganism present in the specimen.
- The ability to detect target organisms depends on the proper collection and handling of the wound swab specimen. Variation in specimen quality may occur due to poor collection technique, lack of bioburden, or substances applied to the SSTI/wound that interfere with the test, as well as specimen contamination due to non-sterile procedures.
- For antibiotic resistance genes and the virulence gene, these tests detect the presence of genes and do not detect whether the genes are expressed. These tests do not detect all known antibiotic resistance mechanisms, nor do they identify with which organism an antibiotic resistance gene is associated. It is possible that an antibiotic resistance gene is associated with an organism that is not included in the tests.
- The DxWound Genetic Analysis Report does not make recommendations for treatment. All test results should be evaluated in the context of the patient's individual clinical presentation.

Technical Assistance

For technical assistance with interpretation or to speak with one of our clinical support specialists, scientists, or clinical pharmacists, please call Client Services at 877.866.0603, Monday–Friday 5:00am to 5:00pm (Pacific Time).

How To Order

Using a CogenDx test requisition (paper or electronic), medically necessary tests are ordered by individual test based on patient-specific elements identified during the clinical assessment and documented in the patient's medical record by the provider. Submit swab specimen in the collection device provided according to the directions in the Specimen Collection Manual. A completed Documentation for DxWound Testing form is required with each order.

References

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2. Moet GJ, Jones RN, Biedenbach DJ, Stilwell MG, Fritsche TR. Contemporary causes of skin and soft tissue infections in North America, Latin America, and Europe: report from the SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program (1998-2004). *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis* 2007;**57**(1):7-13
3. Messer SA, Jones RN, Fritsche TR. International surveillance of *Candida* spp. and *Aspergillus* spp.: report from the SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program (2003). *J Clin Microbiol* 2006;**44**(5):1782-7
4. Wolcott RD, Hanson JD, Rees EJ, et al. Analysis of the chronic wound microbiota of 2,963 patients by 16S rDNA pyrosequencing. *Wound Repair Regen* 2016;**24**(1):163-74
5. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States, 2013. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/>. Accessed April 18, 2017.
6. Kallstrom G. Are quantitative bacterial wound cultures useful? *J Clin Microbiol* 2014;**52**(8):2753-6



Contact CogenDx to learn more.
Client Services: (877) 866-0603
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