

Production of opalescence by staphylococci in egg yolk medium, as an index to bacteriophage typability.

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Abstract : 305 strains of staphylococci from umbilical stumps of 173 infants in a hospital were tested for coagulase production, ability to split egg yolk and bacteriophage type. Egg yolk tests were performed with freshly isolated strains on 10% egg yolk Trypticase soy agar.

There was no correlation between coagulase production and ability to split

24 strains classified as *Staphylococcus aureus* were coagulase negative and All strains classified on the basis of pigment production as *Staph. cdbus*, *Staph. aurantiacus* were egg yolk negative.

76 of 186 coagulase positive strains were egg yolk positive. 74 of these were bacteriophages and 2 produced weak reactions only. 10 strains were egg yolk negative and non-typable.

The phage reactions of the 76 strains are given; only 6 types are represented. 52 strains were typed 52/42B/44/81[= 80]. The egg yolk test is recommended as a screening test to assess the typability of a strain. [These tests were done on 100 strains and most of them were representative of the 3 epidemic species in circulation at the time. More representative strains must be tested before the egg yolk reaction can be adopted as a reliable screening test for this purpose.] *M. Patricia Jevons.*

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