



**EUCAST** EUROPEAN COMMITTEE  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL  
SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

# Reading guide

EUCAST disk diffusion for selected rapidly growing anaerobic bacteria on Fastidious Anaerobe Agar with 5% horse blood (FAA-HB)

Version 2.0  
January 2023

# Changes from previous version (1.0)

<b>Slide</b>	<b>Change</b>
3	Clarification that the Fastidious Anaerobe Agar should be supplemented with 5% defibrinated horse blood (FAA-HB).

# Background

- This reading guide applies to the EUCAST disk diffusion method for rapidly growing anaerobes based on Fastidious Anaerobe Agar with 5% horse blood (FAA-HB) and 16-20 h incubation with the following species:
  - *Bacteroides* spp.
  - *Prevotella* spp.
  - *Fusobacterium necrophorum*
  - *Clostridium perfringens*
  - *Cutibacterium acnes*

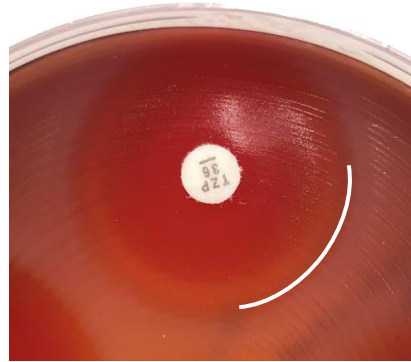
# Reading of inhibition zones

- Read FAA plates from the **front** with the lid removed and with **reflected light**.
- Hold the plate about **30 cm from the eye at a 45-degree angle** to the work bench.
- Measure zone diameters with a **calliper or ruler** at the point of complete inhibition as judged by the naked eye.
  - In case of double zones, read the inner zone edge.
  - **If faint haze within the zone occurs, disregard haze and read the most obvious zone edge. Tilt the plate towards you to better define the obvious zone edge.**
  - Ignore haemolysis and swarming when reading zones.
- Isolated colonies within the inhibition zone should be taken into account when reading. **For clindamycin, it is particularly important to examine zones carefully for colonies growing within the zone.**

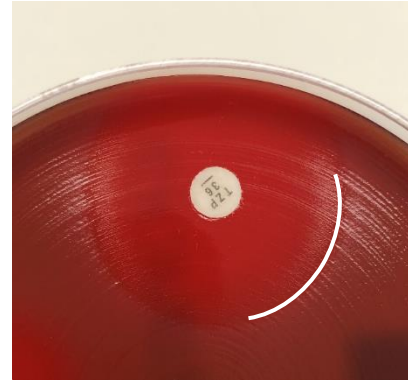
# *Bacteroides* spp.



Piperacillin-tazobactam



Piperacillin-tazobactam



Piperacillin-tazobactam



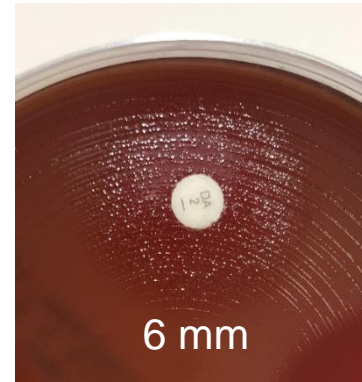
Meropenem



Meropenem



Meropenem



Clindamycin



Metronidazole

# *Prevotella* spp.



Benzylpenicillin



Piperacillin-tazobactam



Meropenem



Clindamycin



Metronidazole

# *Fusobacterium necrophorum*



Benzylpenicillin



Benzylpenicillin



Piperacillin-tazobactam



Piperacillin-tazobactam



Meropenem



Clindamycin



Metronidazole

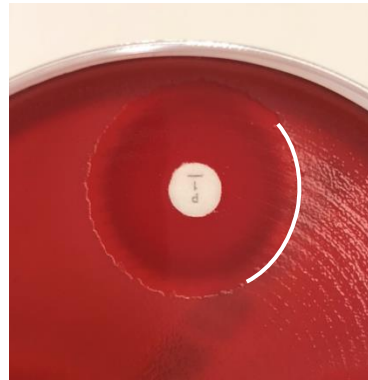


Metronidazole

# *Clostridium perfringens*



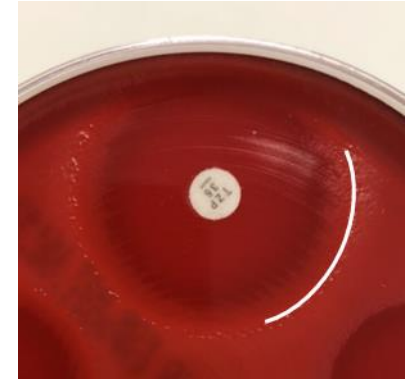
Benzylpenicillin



Benzylpenicillin



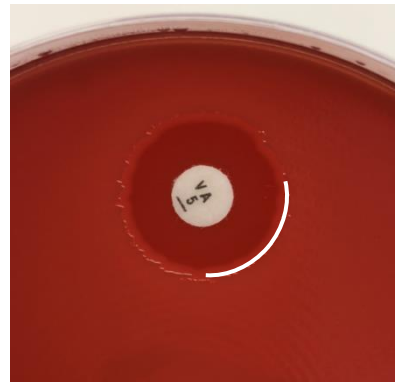
Piperacillin-tazobactam



Piperacillin-tazobactam



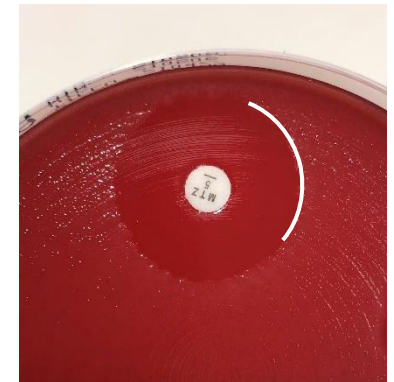
Meropenem



Vancomycin



Clindamycin



Metronidazole



# *Cutibacterium acnes*



Benzylpenicillin



Benzylpenicillin



Piperacillin-tazobactam



Meropenem



Vancomycin



Clindamycin