**Background:** Stool culture for *Clostridium difficile* (CD) is increasingly used as the ‘gold standard’ in studies evaluating new methods for detection of toxigenic CD. We compared three selectives and differential media for their ability to recover CD from fecal samples.

**Methods:** Media and sample recovery standards (agar plates) were established in a blinded fashion for all media tested. CD toxin-positive (TAL) stool samples were obtained from 18 consecutive patients with *CD* by culture and toxin. Samples were inoculated onto each media in two different dilutions. TAL enrichment cultures were inoculated onto each media in a single dilution only. All were incubated under anaerobic conditions (20%) with anaerobic enrichment media for the isolation and presumptive identification of CD. The media are prepared, dispensed and stored under oxygen-free conditions to prevent the formation of oxidized products prior to use. Storage is at 2–8º C.

**Results:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media</th>
<th>CdPOS in 24h</th>
<th>CdPOS in 48h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCFA</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCFA-HT</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion:** CCFA-HT was superior to CCFA for rapid, 24h recovery of CD.

**Conclusions:**

- **CCFA-HT** was superior to CCFA for rapid, 24h recovery of CD.
- **TAL** does not add any additional benefit to cultures when used in combination with the CCFA-HT system.
- **CCFA-HT** does not require any enrichment cultures.

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**References:**