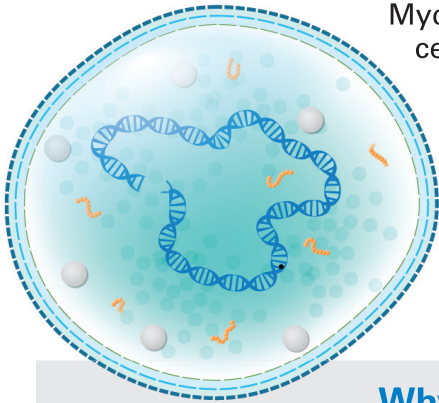
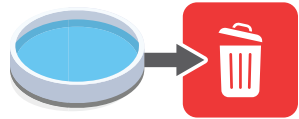


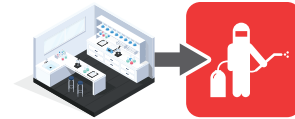
A simple guide to mycoplasma testing



Mycoplasma is a type of prokaryotic organism that commonly contaminates cell cultures. It can alter cell physiology and behavior, which means that data produced from infected cells are unreliable and invalid for publication. These infections can waste immense amounts of time and money:



Infected cells and materials must be discarded



Facilities must be thoroughly decontaminated



Related data or publications must be retracted

Why is mycoplasma infection so common?

Mycoplasmas are small, robust, and elusive. They can spread by touch or aerosol, fit through standard 0.2 μm media filter membranes, and survive a broad range of harsh conditions. Potential sources of mycoplasma contamination include:



Cells from other laboratories or commercial suppliers



Culture media, serums, and reagents



Unsterilized equipment



Airborne particles from contaminated surfaces



Laboratory staff or personal possessions

When should you test your cells for mycoplasma?

Did you recently acquire these cells from a collaborator or company?

Has it been more than six months since these cells were tested?

Will you use these cells for an important project within the next month?

Did any nearby cell lines recently test positive for mycoplasma?

YES

NO

✓ TEST FOR MYCOPLASMA

NO NEED TO TEST (YET)

Wait six months

Is there a simple method for routine mycoplasma testing?

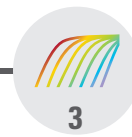
Absolutely! Mycoplasma detection through qPCR is fast, easy, and very sensitive.



1
Collect cell samples
after >3 days in
antibiotic-free media



2
Extract DNA
from your collected
cell supernatant



3
Run qPCR
using reaction mixtures,
mycoplasma-specific primers,
and your extracted DNA



READ RESULTS!
Do your cells
have mycoplasma?



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