


<p>Sistema Socio Sanitario</p>  <p>Regione Lombardia ASST Nord Milano</p>	<p><b>INFORMATION SHEET</b></p> <p><b>SPUTUM</b></p>	Rev. 0	Page 1 of 1
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## SPUTUM

(Sputum culture test)

**Test/Analysis:** SPUTUM: Microscopic + Culture Examination

**Acronym and synonyms:** phlegm

### Diagnostic Significance

The culture test allows the isolation and identification of pathogenic microorganisms of the lower respiratory tract, excluding *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (for which a specific culture test is required). The microscopic examination assesses the suitability of the collected sample.

### Collection

Type of sample: sputum

Preparation

Collection must be done in the morning, on an empty stomach.

### How to take the blood sample

Obtain a sterile container for collection. Perform adequate oral hygiene by gargling with water. Collect the sputum material in the sterile container after a deep cough: the sputum must come from the lower respiratory tract and should not be composed of saliva. If there is difficulty in producing sputum, coughing can be induced with aerosol with physiological saline solution (do not use medication). Do not smoke to induce coughing.