

## **Evaluation of Two Commercially Available Continuous Monitoring Blood Culture Systems**

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A study to compare the BACTEC 9240 and the ESP II continuous blood culture instruments and media was performed by the Microbiology laboratory at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Each instrument utilizes a different technology as well as media used. 15 different organisms were used and detection capability was evaluated by growth in the various media and time to detection (TTD). In addition, three technologists were asked to evaluate the ease of equipment and bottle handling, data management, and culture growth graphics. The technologists rated ESP II better for its data management. ESP II media was superior when no blood was added. This should be a consideration when deciding about the use of blood culture bottles for sterile body fluids other than blood. The ESP II had decreased TTD with some fastidious organisms. The evaluation also determined that even though the BACTEC 9240 PA media is different from the standard aerobic media (SA), it did not exhibit any clinical advantage in this study. This information was compiled from the article written by K.J. Sconce et. al, and presented at the 2002 ASM General Meeting held in Salt Lake City, poster C-7.