

University of Colorado Hospital – Clinical Laboratory
Point of Care Testing Program
Nitrazine pH Paper Competency Assessment

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Operator ID: _____

Date: _____ Operator must obtain a score of at least 80%. Score _____

True or False

1. Blood and secretions from vaginal infections may cause normally acidic vaginal pH to become more alkaline, interfering with test interpretation.

True or False

2. Nitrazine pH test is used as the definitive test for amniotic membrane rupture.
3. The physician wants to check the pH of a vaginal fluid specimen. The manufacturer's expiration date indicates that the pH paper has expired. Under what circumstances can the pH paper still be used?
- The pH paper can be used indefinitely because the expiration date is only a recommended date.
 - The pH paper can be used if it is first tested with two levels of quality control material, and at least one of them is acceptable.
 - The pH paper can be used if it is first tested with two levels of quality control material, and both levels are acceptable.
 - The pH paper cannot be used past its expiration date.
4. A nitrazine pH paper test is performed on vaginal secretions from a pregnant woman. What result may indicate rupture of fetal membranes?
- pH less than 3.0
 - pH 3.8 – 4.2
 - pH 5.0 – 5.5
 - pH 7.0 – 7.5

True or False

5. False negative results may occur from specimen contamination due to cervical mucus, alkaline urine, and soap.

True or False

6. False negative results may be produced by prolonged rupture of membranes (longer than 24 hours).
7. After the pH paper is applied to the vaginal secretions, the pH paper turns becomes yellow to olive green, the corresponding pH is 4.5 – 6.0. This result indicates:
- positive amniotic fluid
 - negative amniotic fluid
 - invalid test
 - inconclusive result
8. After the pH paper is applied to the vaginal secretions, a pH of 7.5 is read. This result indicates:
- positive amniotic fluid
 - negative amniotic fluid
 - invalid test
 - inconclusive result

True or False

9. The Nitrazine pH paper test is highly sensitive but not specific.