

Storage of *E. coli* colonies in stab agar for short-term storage/transport

Most strains of *E. coli* can be stored for one to two years in stab agar. This is ideal for transport when -20 to -70°C storage in glycerol is impossible.

1. Use airtight, autoclaved vials containing $2/3$ full (appr. 1 ml) of medium. Autoclavable cryovials are ideal for this.
2. Inoculate each vial with a single colony by picking a single colony with a sterile toothpick and lightly stabbing it into the media. You do not need to penetrate the agar more than a few mm.
3. Leave the cap of the vial slightly loose and incubate overnight at 37°C .
4. Seal the vial tightly and stored at room temperature in a dark place.
5. To revive a stored strain, streak onto LB plate containing appropriate antibiotics for a single colony and incubate overnight at 37°C .