

Question from the audience
NordicAST WS 2018

How can we interpret results for
bacteria that don't grow within the
standard incubation time or on
standard media?

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Some basic facts...

- EUCAST breakpoints are only valid when using EUCAST methodology
 - Inoculum, media, incubation time and incubation atmosphere
- Prolonged incubation when growth is non sufficient has only been validated for *Campylobacter*, *Corynebacteria*, *Aerococcus* and *Kingella* (MIC and disk diffusion).
- If a bacteria doesn't grow under standard conditions, it might be due to the bacteria per se or related to the media used (manufacturer of agar or batch of agar).

The ugly truth...

- You're on your own!
- Possible options (for which each lab is responsible)
 - Report no AST result
 - Send the isolate to a reference laboratory (to investigate if it is a media-related problem)
 - Use an alternative method (prolonged incubation, CO₂ incubation instead of air, MH-F instead of MH etc.)
 - Include a suitable QC strain
 - Interpret with care and report with a comment!