1- INTENDED USE
Presumptive identification of pneumococci.

2- PRINCIPE
Pneumococci are generally sensitive to optochin while the Streptococci, especially alpha-haemolytic Streptococci, are not.

3- HOW SUPPLIED
- Optochin (cartridge of 30 disks) code 53852.

4- COMPOSITION
Optochin disks (OPT) : absorbent-paper disk impregnated with optochin (ethylhydrocupreine).

5- STORAGE
The disks stored in the cartridge and container, in a dry environment at 2 to 8°C, in the absence of contamination, are stable until the expiration date indicated on the label. The expiration date only applies to disks contained in intact cartridges stored as per the manufacturer's instructions. The stability of the disks after opening (stored as per the recommendations) has been validated under routine conditions over 6 weeks.

6- PROCEDURE
Inoculate the surface of a blood agar medium with either a pure culture (dense suspension to obtain a confluent culture), or directly with the sample if the test is performed at the same time as isolation.
- Deposit an optochin disk on the surface of the agar (in the second quarter of depletion for agar media inoculated directly with the sample).
- Incubate at 37°C for 18 to 24 hours.
Refer to current recommendations for storage of biological specimens (1).

Reading:
Measure the zone of inhibition around the optochin disk.
A zone of inhibition of alpha-haemolytic colonies greater than 12 mm allows presumptive identification of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

7- PERFORMANCE / QUALITY CONTROL OF THE TEST
- The performance of optochin is controlled using the following strains:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRAINS</th>
<th>RESULT OF ANTIBIOTIC SENSITIVITY TESTING AFTER INCUBATION AT 37°C FOR 24 H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Streptococcus pneumoniae</em> CIP A 146</td>
<td>&gt; 12 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Streptococcus pneumoniae</em> ATCC 6303</td>
<td>&gt; 12 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Streptococcus pyogenes</em> ATCC 19615</td>
<td>Resistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8- QUALITY CONTROL OF THE MANUFACTURER
All the products manufactured and marketed by the Bio-Rad company are prepared to our Quality System, starting from reception of raw materials to the final commercialization of the product. Each lot is submitted to quality control assessments and is only released to the market after conforming to the predefined acceptance criteria. The records relating to production and control of each single lot are kept within Bio-Rad.
9- LIMITS OF USE

- During the optochin test, some strains of *Streptococcus*, other than *S. pneumoniae*, may present a very slight zone of inhibition, which must not be confused with the real inhibition, characteristic of *S. pneumoniae*.
- A small percentage of *S. pneumoniae* may be resistant to optochin.
- Complementary tests must be performed for precise identification of the strain isolated.

10- REFERENCES