

Upper Respiratory Micro Screen (Nasal & Throat)

- **Bacterial culture**
- **Fungal culture** (yeast and mold)
- **MARCoNS (multiple antibiotic-resistant coagulase-negative staphylococci) evaluation**
- **Organism identification** (Group A and MARCoNS identification)

Additional Testing for Positive Cultures

For clinically significant bacterial and fungal isolates, RSM Diagnostics Lab also offers:

- **Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST)** to help guide antibiotic selection.
- **Natural Agent Sensitivity Testing** against **10+ natural antimicrobial agents**, providing additional laboratory data that may assist healthcare providers who incorporate integrative or functional medicine approaches into patient care.

Who should get tested?

This test may be useful in the evaluation of patients with:

- Recurrent or chronic sinusitis
- Persistent nasal congestion or rhinitis
- Chronic sore throat
- Recurrent upper respiratory infections
- Suspected bacterial or fungal colonization
- Persistent symptoms despite prior treatment
- Patients with Post Infectious Basal Ganglia Autoimmune Encephalitis (PANS/PANDAS)

Disclaimer - Natural Agent Sensitivity Testing

Natural agent sensitivity testing is performed *in vitro* (laboratory testing) and is intended to provide supplemental information for healthcare providers. Laboratory susceptibility results may not directly predict clinical effectiveness or patient outcomes. Natural agent sensitivity results should be interpreted in conjunction with the patient's clinical presentation, medical history, and other diagnostic findings. This testing is not intended to recommend, endorse, or replace standard medical therapy or evidence-based clinical judgment.

Why Test for MARCoNS?

Testing for MARCoNS (**multiple antibiotic-resistant coagulase-negative staphylococci**) can provide clinically useful information in patients with persistent upper respiratory symptoms or recurrent infections, particularly when standard therapies have not resulted in lasting improvement.

Who May Benefit From Testing?

Healthcare providers may consider MARCoNS evaluation in patients with:

- Recurrent sinus infections
- Chronic rhinosinusitis
- Persistent nasal congestion
- Symptoms despite multiple antibiotic courses
- Suspected chronic bacterial colonization
- Recurrent upper respiratory infections
- Persistent postnasal drainage
- Patients being evaluated within integrative or functional medicine practices where chronic nasal colonization is part of the clinical assessment

Note: The association between MARCoNS and CIRS is **not universally accepted**. Current evidence is limited, and major infectious disease and otolaryngology guidelines **do not recommend routine MARCoNS testing** for all patients with chronic sinus disease.

Laboratory Disclaimer: MARCoNS results should always be interpreted within the context of the patient's clinical history, symptoms, physical examination, and other diagnostic findings. Colonization does not necessarily indicate active infection, and detection alone does not establish disease causation. Natural antimicrobial sensitivity testing reflects *in vitro* laboratory activity and may not predict clinical effectiveness in individual patients.

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