

Nasal Cultures

1. Every pre-operative cardiac surgical patient will have a nasal culture done for Pre-Admission Testing.
2. The nasal culture is a screening for the bacterial Staph Aureus or Methacillin Resistent Staph Aureus (MRSA).
3. The culture takes 48 to 72 hours to grow out.
4. If positive for Staph Aureus, the patient will be started on Bactroban 2% Ointment
Sig: apply a small amount of ointment to each nares 2 x day for 5 days. Surgery may be postponed for treatment. No reculture is necessary.
5. If positive for MRSA then the patient's surgery will be postponed and treated with Bactroban.
6. A repeat nasal culture will be done after being off the nasal ointment for 2 days. If the culture is negative the surgery will be rescheduled, if not we will treat for another 5 days and repeat the culture.