Strep Throat, Group A streptococcus
Group A beta hemolytic streptococcus, Rapid Strep Test

This is a test to determine if a sore throat (*pharyngitis*) or tonsil infection (*tonsillitis*) is caused by a Group A streptococcal bacteria (strep throat).

The test identifies Streptococcus pyogenes, known as Group A streptococcus, which are bacteria (a type of germ) that infect the back of the throat and cause the common infection called strep throat.

SAMPLE COLLECTION
A swab is brushed against your throat and tonsils. The swab is tested in your doctor's office or may be sent to a laboratory.

NORMAL VALUE:
Normal values are negative for strep.

MEANING OF TEST
A positive rapid test indicates the presence of group A streptococci, the bacteria that cause strep throat. A negative rapid test indicates that you probably do not have strep throat. If negative, your caregiver may have the sample tested by doing a second test called a *culture* (a test that grows bacteria taking from the throat). This second test is done to be sure that there is no group A strep in your throat. Culture results may take one or two days. Recent antibiotic therapy or gargling with some mouthwashes before the rapid test may make the test wrong.

OBTAINING THE TEST RESULTS
- Make sure you receive the results of your test. Ask how these results are to be obtained if you have not been informed. It is your responsibility to obtain your test results.
- Your caregiver will provide further instructions or treatment options if necessary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: http://www.labtestsonline.org/

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