

Module: Kirby-Bauer method of antimicrobial susceptibility testing

Main menu

Description: provides a detailed explanation of the purpose, mechanism, components and method, and interpretation of the Kirby-Bauer antimicrobial susceptibility test.

Steps: step-by-step instructions for carrying out the exercise test.

Start or Restart: begins the virtual exercise

Method

1. From the main menu, click “start” to begin the exercise.
2. Using the virtual ruler (the mouse), measure the zone of inhibition – the diameter of the clear zone (no bacterial growth) around each antibiotic disc - in millimeters. This is the zone in which bacterial growth has been inhibited by the antibiotic in the disc.
3. Compare the zone sizes to the values in the Table of Interpretive Standards next to the plate (also provided as Table 2).
4. Click on the box corresponding to the appropriate result: R (resistant), I (intermediate), or S (susceptible).
5. Continue for each disc until the entire plate has been scored and the table is complete.