

## Streptococcal screen

### Definition

A streptococcal screen is a test to detect group A streptococcus. This type of bacteria is the most common cause of strep throat.

### Alternative Names

Rapid strep test

### How the Test is Performed

The test requires a throat swab. The swab is tested to identify group A streptococcus. It takes about 7 minutes to get the results.

### How to Prepare for the Test

There is no special preparation. Tell your health care provider if you are taking antibiotics, or have recently taken them.

### How the Test will Feel

The back of your throat will be swabbed in the area of your tonsils. This may make you gag.

### Why the Test is Performed

Your provider may recommend this test if you have signs of strep throat, which include:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Tender and swollen glands at the front of your neck
- White or yellow spots on your tonsils

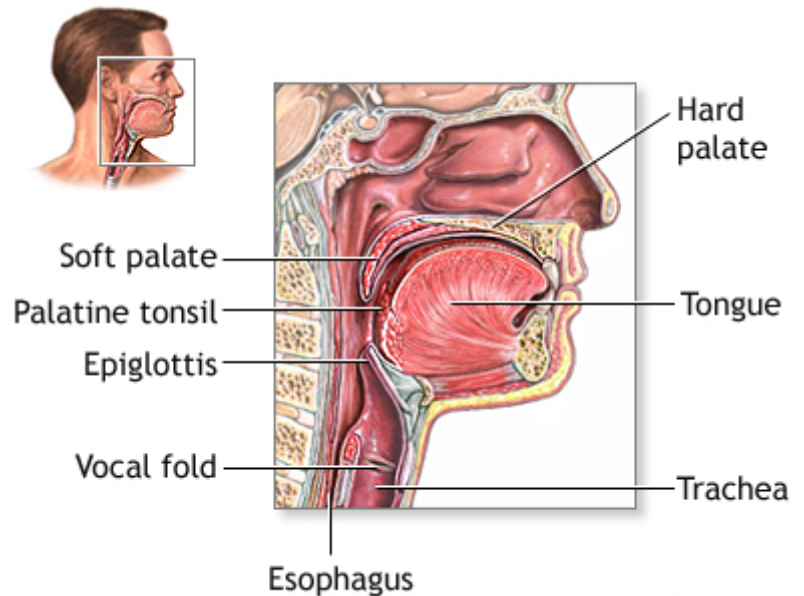
### Normal Results

A negative strep screen most often means group A streptococcus is not present. It is unlikely that you have strep throat.

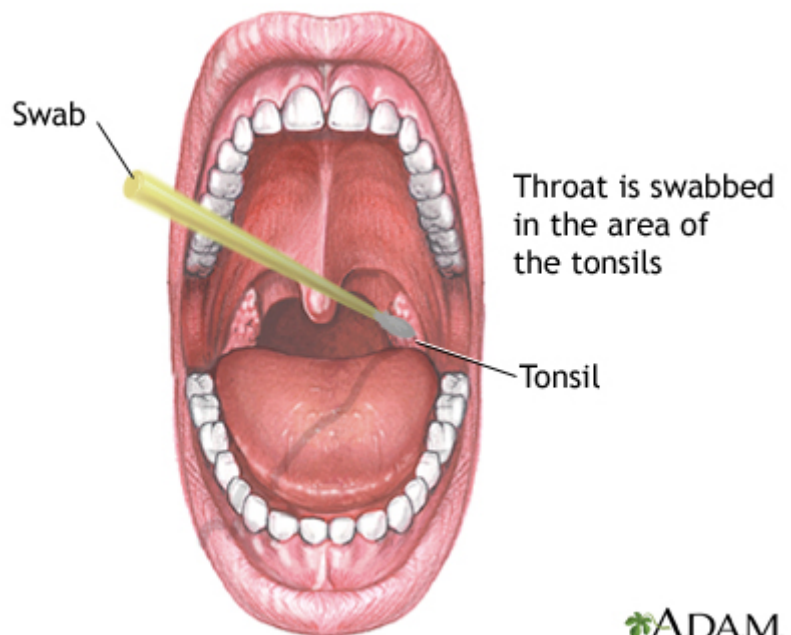
If your provider still thinks that you may have strep throat, a throat culture will be done in children and adolescents.

### What Abnormal Results Mean

A positive strep screen most often means group A streptococcus is present, and confirms that you have strep throat.



ADAM.



ADAM.

Sometimes, the test may be positive even if you do not have strep. This is called a false-positive result.

## Risks

There are no risks.

## Considerations

This test screens for the group A streptococcus bacteria only. It will not detect other causes of sore throat.

## References

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