



VAGINAL SWAB COLLECTION

1. Introduction

Vaginal swabs from female genital tract are taken to detect and treat reproductive tract infection such as bacteria vaginosis, Trichomonas vaginalis, Candidiasis & Group B streptococcus infections, etc.

2. Procedure

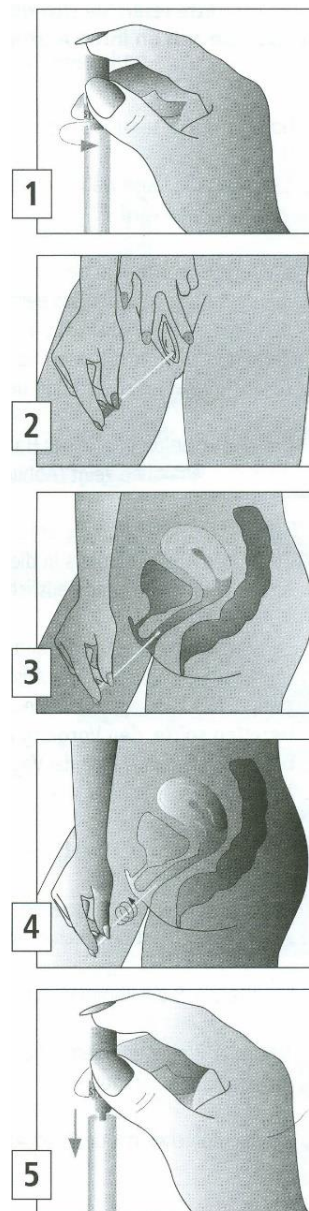
1. Preparation for Sample Collection

- Wash hands with soap and water prior to collection of vaginal swabs.
- Put yourself in a comfortable position balance during collection procedure.
- Take a swab stick with transport media.

2. Sample Collection Procedure

- 1) Twist the cap to break the seal. Pull the cap with attached swab off the tube. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If you touch or drop the swab tip or the swab is laid down, discard the swab and request a new vaginal swab.
- 2) Hold the swab by the cap with one hand so the swab tip is pointing toward you.

With your other hand, gently spread the skin outside the vagina. Insert the tip of the swab into the vaginal opening. Point the tip toward your lower back and relax your muscles.
- 3) Gently slide the swab no more than two inches into the vagina. If the swab does not slide easily, gently rotate the swab as you push. If it is still difficult, do not attempt to continue. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab.
- 4) Rotate the swab for 10 -15 seconds.
- 5) Withdraw the swab without touching the skin. Place the swab in the tube and cap securely.
- 6) After collection, wash hands with soap and water, rinse, and dry.
- 7) Maintain vaginal swab at room temperature and submit to the laboratory within 24 hr.
- 8) Write the hours of collection.



References

- Hull University Teaching Hospital ; Instructions for self collection of vaginal swab.
<https://www.hey.nhs.uk/pathology/departmentofinfection/virology/vaginal-swabs/>
- <https://lifelabs.azureedge.net/lifelabs-wp-cdn/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/COLLECTION-OF-SWABS-FOR-CULTURE.pdf>