BactiSwab®
Collection and Transport Systems

INTENDED USE
Remel BactiSwab® collection and transport systems are sterile swabs with transport media for use in collection and transportation of clinical specimens to the laboratory for microbiological examination when swab collection is appropriate.

SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION
Certain pathogenic organisms will die quickly in dry conditions and are sensitive to atmospheric oxygen concentrations. Therefore, a transport medium is needed to protect bacteria against the lethal effects of atmospheric oxygen, unfavorable pH conditions, toxic fatty acids, and desiccation. In 1948, Moffett, Young, and Stuart described a medium for transporting gonococcal specimens to the laboratory. Stuart, Toschach, and Patsula elaborated on this transport method and formulated a non-nutrient, semi-solid, highly reductive medium which was useful for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, and *Corynebacterium diphterianae*. Cooper extended Stuart’s method to the transport of swabs of clinical material containing upper respiratory tract and enteric pathogens.

PRINCIPLE
BactiSwab® collection and transport systems are complete, ready-to-use systems to collect and transport a specimen to the laboratory. The rayon swab is sterile, non-reactive, and can be removed from the swab collection is appropriate.

STORAGE
This product is ready for use and no further preparation is necessary. The product should be stored in its original container at 15-30°C until used. Do not freeze or overheat. Do not incubate prior to use.

TRANSPORT
Prompt specimen delivery to the laboratory is advantageous. Specimens should be plated as soon as they are received in the laboratory. Refrigeration at 4-6°C offers a safe and dependable method of storing many clinical samples until they can be conveniently processed. Never refrigerate genital, eye, or ear specimens, or specimens for anaerobic culture. To avoid exposure to potential etiological agent(s) that may be present in specimens being transported, established laboratory safety procedures should be followed. Consult appropriate references for safe and proper handling when necessary.

PRODUCT DETERIORATION
This product should not be used if (1) there is evidence of dehydration, (2) the product is contaminated, (3) the color of the medium has changed from a colorless, clear liquid, (4) the expiration date has passed, (5) the outer Tyvek® envelope has been damaged or opened, or (6) there are other signs of deterioration.

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED
Refer to appropriate references for necessary equipment required in specimen collection and packaging materials for transport.

PROCEDURE
1. Open package and remove BactiSwab®. (The BactiSwab® NPG incorporates a thin aluminum wire in place of the plastic shaft to provide the necessary flexibility in collecting specimens from the nasopharynx or urethra.)
2. Remove cap-swab from the plastic tube.
3. Collect specimen following recommended guidelines, and return cap-swab to tube.
4. The transport medium in the ampule is dispensed by crushing the ampule at its midpoint, through the plastic tube. Do not crush at the end of the ampule.
5. Push cap down firmly to assure swab-pledget contact.
6. Label specimen with the appropriate patient identification.
7. Send to the laboratory for processing with minimal delay.
8. Upon receipt in the laboratory, specimens should be promptly processed according to laboratory guidelines.

LIMITATIONS
1. Follow recommended guidelines for proper specimen collection. Consult appropriate references when necessary.
2. Optimal recovery is achieved by direct specimen plating and smear preparation at the time of collection from the patient. Because this is not always possible, swabs provide a useful alternative for specimen collection and transport.
3. Anaerobes, chlamydiae, mycoplasmas, and viruses require special transport systems. Consult appropriate references for transport of suspected potential pathogens.
4. Condition, timing, and volume of specimen collected for culture are significant variables in obtaining reliable culture results.
5. Transport media may maintain viability of fastidious organisms for a short period of time. Overgrowth of specimens or loss of viability may occur if transport time is excessive. Immediate culturing is recommended for *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, Bordetella pertussis, and other fastidious organisms.
6. Specimens should be handled aseptically. Avoid contamination from indigenous flora at the site when possible.
7. An uncultured specimen should never be discarded without obtaining a new specimen or consulting with the patient’s physician, or both.
8. The BactiSwab® with Modified Stuart’s Medium will maintain and transport aerobes and facultative anaerobes that are pathogenic and normally recovered from the body.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS
An evaluation of 16 potentially pathogenic organisms held in Modified Stuart’s Mediums showed viability comparable to a similar commercially available transport system. Recovery of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Streptococcus pyogenes* was seen at 24 hours with both systems.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

PACKAGING
REF 12100, BactiSwab® ............................................................ 100/Pk
One rayon-tipped, plastic shaft swab
REF 12110, BactiSwab® ........................................................... 1,000/Cs
One rayon-tipped, plastic shaft swab
REF 12200, BactiSwab® II .................................................... 100/Pk
Two rayon-tipped, plastic shaft swabs
REF 12210, BactiSwab® II ................................................... 1,000/Cs
Two rayon-tipped, plastic shaft swabs

REF 12300, BactiSwab® NPG .................................................. 100/Pk
One rayon mini-tipped, aluminum shaft swab
REF 12310, BactiSwab® NPG ............................................... 1,000/Cs
One rayon mini-tipped, aluminum shaft swab

Symbol Legend

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