Transport Medium for Swabs

Reagent for transportation and storage

of clinical material

Instruction Manual

REF **R12**
R12-Resp

1. INTENDED USE

Transport Medium for Swabs (R12) is a reagent intended for transportation and storage of swabs and discharges collected from the urogenital tract, throat, rectum, and erosive-ulcerative lesions of human skin and mucous membranes for subsequent analysis of the material for STIs and other reproductive tract infections by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and nucleic acid sequence-based amplification (NASBA).

Transport Medium for Storage and Transportation of Respiratory Swabs (R12-Stab) is a reagent intended for taking, transportation, and storage of upper respiratory tract swabs.

2. PRINCIPLE

Transport Medium is a phosphate buffer solution supplemented with preservative and cryopreservative agents. The salt composition and pH of the medium prevent premature lysis of cell in swabs, the preservative agent prevents the growth of foreign microflora, and the cryopreservative agent stabilizes microorganisms during freeze–thaw transitions.

3. CONTENT

Transport Medium for Swabs is produced in 2 forms:

Form 1 includes Transport Medium for Swabs, 1 vial of 30 ml, **REF** R12.

Form 1/a includes Transport Medium for RespiratorySwabs, 1 vial of 50 ml, **REF** R12-Resp

Form 2 includes Transport Medium for Swabs, 100 tubes of 0.3 ml, **REF** R12-T.

Transport Medium for Swabs includes:

Reagent	***Description***	***Form 1***		***Form 2***	
		Volume, ml	***Quantity***	***Volume, ml***	***Quantity***
Transport Medium for Swabs	Colorless clear liquid	30 (50*)	1 vial	0.3	100

Transport Medium for Swabs (form 1 and 2) is intended for 100 samples.

** for R12-Resp*

4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

For form 1 and 1a only:

- Disposable 1.5-ml polypropylene Eppendorf tubes (for example Axygen).
- Automated pipette, 200-1000 µl.
- Sterile pipette tips with aerosol barriers, 200-1000 µl.

For form 1/1a and 2:

- Disposable sterile probes (tampons or cytobrushes) designed for collecting of respiratory and urogenital swabs
- Tube racks.
- Disposable powder-free gloves and laboratory coat.
- Waste bin for used tips.

5. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

The user should always pay attention to the following:

- Use sterile pipette tips with aerosol barriers and use new tip for every procedure.
- Use disposable gloves, laboratory coats, protect eyes while samples and reagents handling. Thoroughly wash hands afterward.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses in laboratory work areas.
- Do not use a reagent after its expiration date.
- Dispose of all samples and unused reagents in compliance with local authorities requirements.
- Samples should be considered potentially infectious and handled in a biological cabinet in accordance with appropriate biosafety practices.
- Clean and disinfect all sample or reagent spills using a disinfectant, such as 0.5% sodium hypochlorite or another suitable disinfectant.
- Avoid contact with the skin, eyes and mucosa. If skin, eyes and mucosa contact, immediately flush with water, seek medical attention.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available on request.

6. SAMPLING AND HANDLING

Transport Medium for Swabs is intended for transportation and storage of the following clinical material: respiratory and urogenital swabs.

Storage and transportation of clinical material placed in the Transport Medium for Swabs (make sure the tube is tightly closed):

– at room temperature (18-25 °C) for up to 48 h;
– at 2-8 °C for up to 7 days;
– at ≤–20 °C for a long time (1 g samples or less).

7. WORKING CONDITIONS

Transport Medium for Swabs should be used at 18–25 °C.

8. PROTOCOL

Omit step 1 if form 2 is used.

1. Dispense 0.3 ml of Transport Medium for Swabs to 1.5-ml tubes using an aseptic technique. Tightly close the tubes and store at 2-25 °C until the expiration date on the label.
2. Prior to opening a tube, make sure that the drops are removed from the tube cap.
3. Place the probe end with clinical material to a tube with Transport Medium for Swabs, break off the shaft at the scratch mark (if applicable), and recap the tube. If there is no a scratch mark, sink the probe end in the medium, rotate the probe for 5-10 s pressing it to the tube wall, then remove the probe and recap the tube. Mark the tube.

9. STABILITY AND STORAGE

Transport Medium for Swabs is to be stored at 2–25 °C when not in use. Transport Medium for Swabs is stable until the expiration date on the label. The shelf life of the reagent before and after the first use is the same, unless otherwise stated.

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