



Saliva Collection From Skin Using the Double Swab Technique

Reference:

Sweet DJ, Lorente M, Lorente JA, Valenzuela A and Villanueva E, *An Improved Method to Recover Saliva from Human Skin: The Double Swab Technique*, Journal of Forensic Sciences 1997; 42 (2): 320-22.

Supplies:

Sterile cotton or Dacron swabs (no preservatives)

Sterile, distilled water

Fitzpak swab box (Cat. No. F06129; Invitro Sciences Inc. invitro.sciences@sympatico.ca)

Technique:

Dip the head of the first sterile swab in sterile, distilled water to thoroughly moisten the tip (□10 seconds). Roll the swab head over the saliva stain using circular motions and *medium pressure* to "wash" the stain from the surface. Place this swab in the evidence box to thoroughly air dry (≥30 minutes).

Within 10 seconds of completing the first swab procedure, roll the tip of the dry second sterile swab over the area of skin that is now wet from the first swab. Use circular motions with *light pressure* to "absorb" the moisture from the skin on to the swab head. Place this swab in the evidence box to thoroughly air dry (≥30 minutes).

Since the two swabs come from the same site, they can be combined into a single exhibit. Both swabs can be placed in the same evidence box for submission to the laboratory.

A DNA reference sample is taken from the victim to allow interpretation of any mixtures. This DNA sample can be in the form of a buccal swab, whole blood sample, small section of tissue, etc. Expedited submission of this sample and the saliva swabs to the laboratory for analysis is recommended.

Storage, Transportation:

The swabs should be submitted for analysis as soon as possible. If submitted within a few hours of collection, storage and transportation at room temperature is adequate. If submitted after one day, frozen storage (–20°C) and cold transportation (dry ice, freezer packs) are recommended.

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January 2003