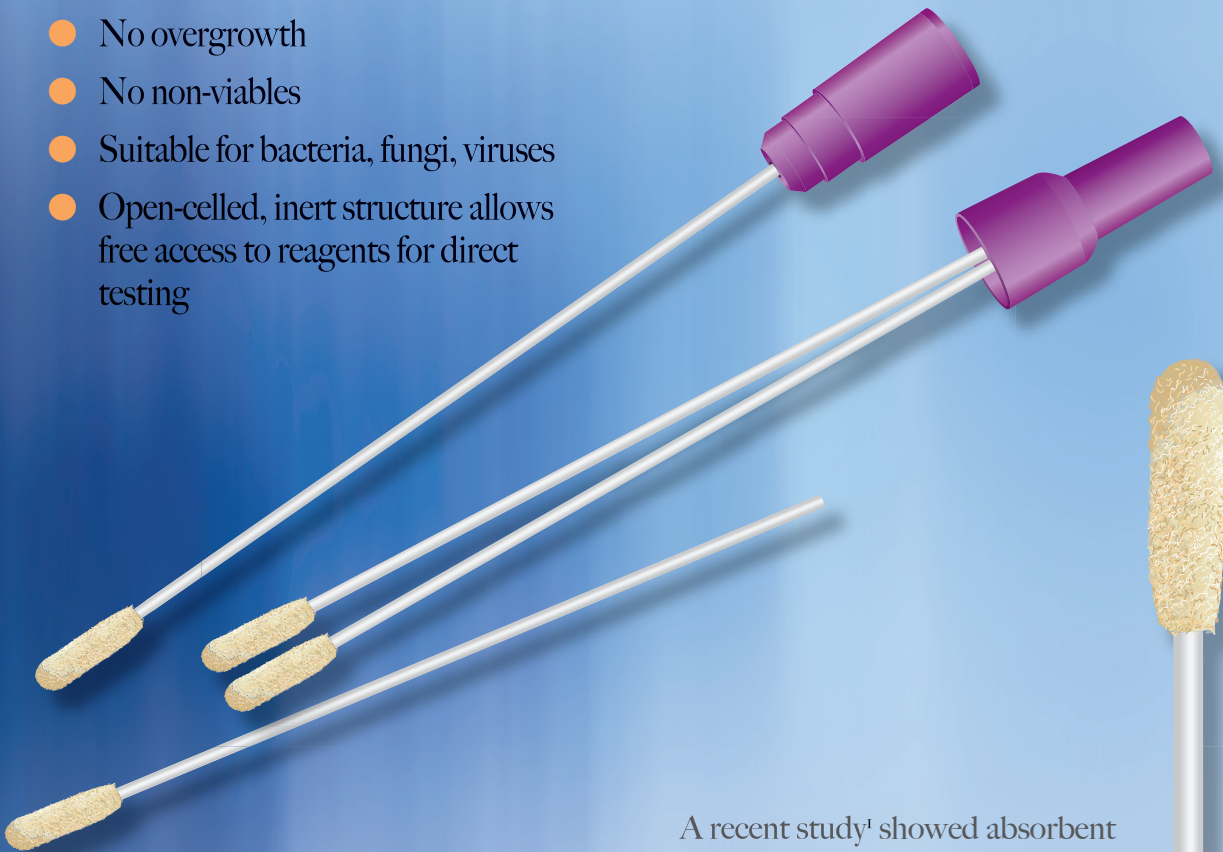


Σ-Swab™

Sigma-Swab™, the medium free transport system for culture or direct molecular testing

- No dilution of sample
- No overgrowth
- No non-viables
- Suitable for bacteria, fungi, viruses
- Open-celled, inert structure allows free access to reagents for direct testing



A recent study¹ showed absorbent foam-tipped swabs to be superior to flocced swabs when used with a rapid antigen test for influenza.






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For many years liquid and gel-based swab systems have been recognised as the best means for the collection and transport of many microbiological specimens. While such systems have many advantages, there are some limitations – particularly the fact that the specimen is diluted by immersion within the liquid or gel, and that specimens can be compromised by the ability of some common specimen contaminants such as *E. coli* and *Ps. aeruginosa* to multiply in even the most minimal of transport media.



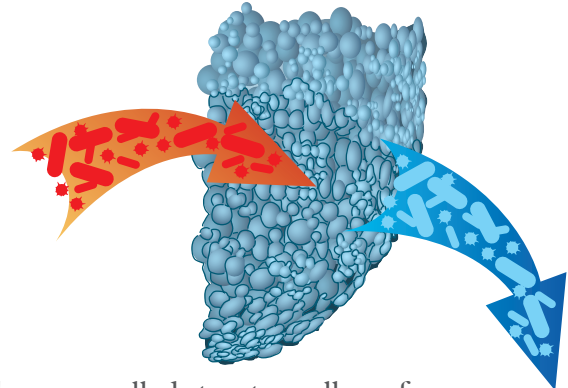
A number of studies¹⁻⁴ have shown that a dry polyurethane foam tipped swab can be used for the transport of many organisms including bacteria, fungi and viruses.

The soft-foam bud is more comfortable for patients, and also has significant advantages for both conventional and molecular laboratory techniques.

Medical Wire's new Sigma-Swab™ features a special polyurethane foam tip. The open-celled sponge collects, protects and releases organisms. The open-pored surface removes the organisms from the site of infection and protects them during transport. They are then readily released into culture medium or directly onto an agar plate at the laboratory.

The absence of transport medium means there is no dilution of the specimen, and no non-viable organisms to interfere with Gram stains. Even

the most basic transport medium can support overgrowth at anything other than fridge temperature, and this problem is eliminated by the use of the medium free Sigma-Swab™.



The open-celled structure allows free access to reagents for the various direct antigen, and other molecular tests used for direct and rapid identification methods. A recent study¹ showed absorbent foam-tipped swabs to be superior to flocced swabs when used with a rapid antigen test for influenza.

Code	Description	Qty
MW940	Sigma-Swab™, Bell cap, Polyurethane foam swab, Plastic Shaft, In peel pouch general purpose	125
MW941	Sigma-Transwab®, Plug cap, Polyurethane foam swab, Plastic Shaft, In labelled tube general purpose	100
MW942	Sigma-Transwab® Duo, Bell cap, Polyurethane foam swab, Plastic Shaft, In peel pouch with labelled transport tube general purpose	125

References

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2. Anne R Beall, Maria Midence, Integrated Regional Laboratories, 2003, **Evaluation of Six Swab Transport Systems: Recovery of clinically relevant anaerobes.**
3. Roelofsen, E., M. Van Leeuwen, G.J. Meijer-Severs, M.H.F. Wilkinson, & J.E. Degener, 1999, Evaluation of the effects of storage in two different Swab Fabrics and under Three Different Transport Conditions on Recovery of Aerobic and Anaerobic Bacteria. *J. Clin Microbiol.* **37**:3041-3043
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