





Σ -Transwab[®] is designed for the new era of automated processing of swab specimens.

All new specimen collection devices with screw cap tube, liquid medium, and featuring Σ -Swab[®] with open cell flow-through polyurethane foam bud, and integral swab-capture system; fully compatible with automated specimen processing platforms.

Σ -Virocult[®] shares many features of the new design, including swab capture.



Multipurpose collection and transportation systems

Σ-Transwab®

liquid transport for automated & conventional processing.

A completely new specimen collection device with screw cap tube, and Medical Wire's new liquid Amies Medium. Compatible with automated processing systems, and still entirely suitable for conventional inoculation and plating.

The specimen is collected by Sigma-swab® into the tube with Liquid Amies Transport Medium. The microorganisms from the initial specimen are dispersed through the medium, producing a uniform suspension ready for use, either in an automatic sampling and inoculation system, or directly with any of the many rapid molecular tests currently available. This process is enhanced by the Sigma-swab®, an open-celled foam-tipped swab which allows complete flow through of reagents and microorganisms.

The vial, made from shatterproof polypropylene, has a conical base, and can be centrifuged. The base is skirted, so the tube is free standing at the bench, while the new screw cap ensures secure holding of liquids. The cap also incorporates an ingenious swab capture mechanism. Thus when the swab is placed in the tube, snapped at its break point and broken, and the cap screwed home, the swab is "captured" securely,



so that when the cap is removed, whether manually or mechanically, the swab is automatically removed with the cap!



Dual & Mini-Tip Formats (Colour coded)

- Σ-Transwab® (dual format) has two standard swabs with breakpoints, and is convenient when a patient is being swabbed at multiple sites, such as for MRSA-screening. For dual format only one swab is captured.
- Σ-Transwab® (mini-tip format) uses a narrow fine-tip shaft, also with a foam tip, and is particularly suited for nasopharyngeal and urethral specimens. This does not use the swab capture mechanism.
- Σ-Transwab® are M40-A compliant, suitable for aerobic, anaerobic and fastidious microorganisms, and can be transported at ambient or refrigerator temperatures. The liquid medium is based on the original formulation of Amies, but without charcoal.
- Σ-Transwab® can be used immediately for Gram stains at the time of collecting the specimen, and transported securely whether by external courier or internal pneumatic system.
- Σ-Transwab® are CE-marked, and conform to the requirements of the European Medical Devices Directive and In Vitro Medical Devices Directives^{33,34}.



New collection vial

- Screw cap – for sample integrity and security
- Compatible with most automatic decapping systems
- Integral swab capture – no further manual handling of swab shaft required
- Colour coded caps according to format and application
- Self-standing for convenience
- Inner conical base – can be centrifuged
- Shatterproof polypropylene

New Sigma-swab®

- Soft polyurethane foam bud preferred by patients
- High absorbency for optimum sample uptake
- Open cell for complete flow through of medium and reagents²⁶⁻³⁰
- Maximum release of microorganism
- Entire specimen is released into liquid phase
- Breakpoint for easy handling, ensures exact fit of swab in tube and swab capture
- Fine-tip option available for urethral and nasopharyngeal specimens

New transport medium

- Liquid Amies for automated and conventional processing
- Liquid Amies provides suspension for quick Gram stain and multiple cultures
- Liquid Amies maintains viability of Aerobes, Anaerobes, and Fastidious bacteria for up to 48 hours at ambient and refrigerated temperatures (as required for M40 compliance)^{1,3,29}
- Rapid elution of specimen allows accurate and quantitative dilutions
- Stable at room temperature for 24 months



Integral swab capture – no further manual handling of swab shaft required



Σ-Transwab offers excellent Gram staining with clear images, and without interference¹⁰.

Order Information

Code	Description	Use	Pack
MW1675	Two Standard Sigma Swabs	Wound - Skin - Throat	125
MW1765	Single Standard Sigma Swab	Wound - Skin - Throat	125
MW17653	Three Standard Sigma Swabs	Wound - Skin - Throat	125
MW1775	Single Mini Tip Sigma Swab	Nasopharyngeal - Pediatric - Urogenital	125

Σ-Virocult®

With classic Virocult® medium for virus isolation and identification

Σ-Virocult® combines Medical Wire's open cell bud Sigma-Swab®²⁶⁻³⁰ with Virocult® medium¹¹⁻²⁵, for long the leading transport medium for virus specimens. Virocult® medium can be used with traditional cell culture techniques, or the many current molecular techniques.

Virocult® has long been recognised as one of the best transport devices for viruses, demonstrating survival of many types of virus at ambient temperatures, including Herpes Simplex Virus, Varicella-Zoster Virus, Influenza Type A (including Novel H1N1, H5N1, and H3N2), Influenza Type B, respiratory syncytial virus, mumps virus, adenovirus, rhinovirus, and various enterovirus.

Virocult® medium stabilises the virus particles allowing long survival, and also contains antimicrobials to prevent the growth of any bacteria and fungi present in the specimen. These features make it suitable for cell culture based analysis, but many studies in recent years have shown Virocult® to be completely compatible with many of the newer molecular techniques such as DFA, ELISA and PCR.

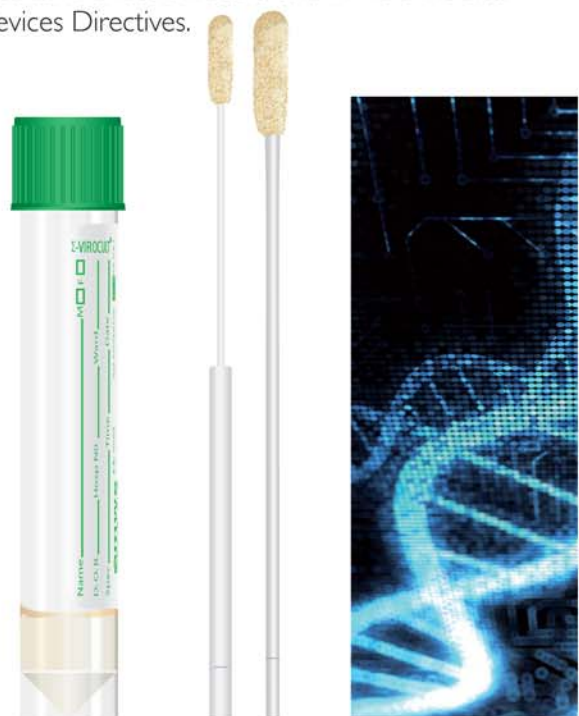
Virocult® & Σ-Virocult® have been validated according to CLSI's M40-A standard for viral

culture transport devices, which requires survival of reference strains for at least 96 hours at ambient or refrigerated temperatures.

Σ-Virocult® is supplied with Sigma-Swab® the open cell foam tipped swabs which allows optimum uptake and release of target microorganisms, and complete flow-through of reagents for optimum sensitivity for molecular test protocols. Standard Sigma-Swab® is suitable for general swab applications such as skin lesions, nose and throat. Sigma-Swab® ENT /urethral is suitable for nasopharyngeal and urethral sampling.

Σ-Virocult® is supplied as a sterile device comprising a self-standing conical based vial with 1 ml of Virocult® medium, and a choice of 1 or 2 standard Sigma-Swab®, 1 fine-tip Sigma-Swab® ENT/urethral, or one of each. It is stored at room temperature, with a shelf life of 1 year:

Specimens, once collected, can be transported under ambient or refrigerator temperature conditions. Sigma-Virocult® is CE-marked, and conforms to the requirements of the European Medical Devices Directive and In Vitro Medical Devices Directives.



Σ-Swab®

The medium free transport system



Sigma-Swab®

- Open-celled foam bud
- Optimum absorption and release
- Optimum performance with molecular test systems
- Standard shaft or ENT/urethral

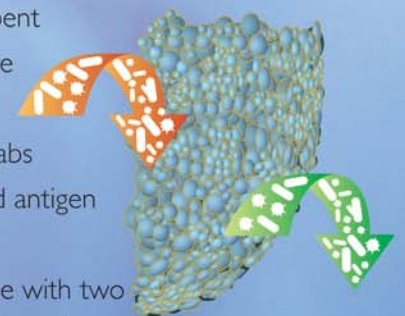
Virocult® medium

- Optimum recovery of target organisms
- Optimum compatibility with molecular test systems
- Antibiotics inhibit bacteria and fungi
- Recovers wide range of respiratory, genital and enteric viruses
- Transport specimens at ambient temperatures
- Choice of fill volume

Medical Wire's Sigma-Swab® features a special polyurethane foam tip (standard or ENT fine-tip). Studies have shown that a dry polyurethane foam-tipped swab can be used for the transport of many micro-organisms. The soft-foam bud is more comfortable for patients, and has significant advantages for both conventional and molecular methods²⁶⁻³⁰.

- 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

In-house and published studies show that Sigma-Swab® maintains many classes of organisms in stable numbers, including bacteria²⁸⁻³⁰, fungi, viruses²⁵, and mycoplasma. It is particularly useful for MRSA screening, with good recovery and no overgrowth. Absorbent foam-tipped swabs have been shown to be superior to flocced swabs when used with a rapid antigen test for influenza²⁶.



Sigma-Swab® is available with two bud types. The standard version has a normal sized bud suitable for general purpose swabbing such as wounds, including surgical wounds, skin, mouth, nose and throat. The fine-tip version (Mini Sigma-Swab®) has a narrow shaft and is especially suited for urethral and nasopharyngeal sampling.

Sigma-Swab® and Mini Sigma-Swab® are supplied sterile in peel pouch, tubed and tubed-duo formats.

Order information at www.mwe.co.uk

Order Information

Code	Description	Use	Pack
			
			
MW951S	Small Vial with 1.0ml fill Single Standard Sigma Swab	Respiratory - Wound - Skin	125
MW951SENT	Small Vial with 1.0ml fill Single Mini Tip Sigma Swab	Nasopharyngeal - Pediatric - Urogenital	125
MW951T	Small Vial only 1.0ml fill		50
			
MW950S	Large Vial with 2.0ml fill Single Standard Sigma Swab	Respiratory - Wound - Skin	125
MW950SENT	Large Vial with 2.0ml fill Single Mini Tip Sigma Swab	Nasopharyngeal - Pediatric - Urogenital	125
MW950S2	Large Vial with 2.0ml fill Two Standard Sigma Swabs	Respiratory - Multiple sites	125
MW950SE2	Large Vial with 2.0ml fill One Standard and One Mini Tip Sigma Swab	Respiratory - Multiple sites	125
MW950T	Large Vial only 2.0ml fill		50

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Molecular Methods

All of Medical Wire's transport devices are compatible with most molecular testing methods. It is essential, however, to check with the molecular kit or system manufacturer to determine if they have any special requirements or methods for validation of collection devices. If additional validation is required, and in the absence of specific guidance use an appropriate procedure such as Cumitech 31A to confirm the collection devices are suitable.

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