



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023 [www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab](http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab)

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## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

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### Vaginal Wet Preparations

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#### **Specimen Collection Procedure for Vaginal Wet Preparations.**

##### Patient preparation

A vaginal wet mount should not be performed during the menstrual period, because menstrual blood on the slide can confound the results. Vaginal irritation, tampon use or sexual intercourse should be avoided for 24 hours before the test. Vaginal medicines, such as a nonprescription vaginal yeast medicine, should not be used during the 2 to 3 days before the test.

The sampling is done with the patient in lithotomy position to facilitate use of a swab or spatula to sample fluid inside the vagina. The sampling procedure may cause some discomfort and minor bleeding, but otherwise there are no associated risks. The sample is then collected by a dacron swab and placed in 1 mL saline in sterile tube

##### Specimen Collection

The collection and transport of specimens is important for evaluation of vaginal wet preparations. Collect vaginal secretions or exudates from patients using accepted sample collection methods in a clinical setting.

Use a dacron swab with plastic or aluminum shaft; do not use calcium alginate, or wooden-shafted swabs.

Collect specimens as aseptically as possible.

Place swab in 1 ml sterile saline in a screw capped tube. Submit to SLOPHL with a completed requisition.

##### Specimen Transport:

- Specimens must be received and read within 4 hours of collection.
- Transport specimen at room temperature to ensure viability of *Trichomonas vaginalis*.
- Optimally, specimens should be received in the laboratory within 1 hour of collection to detect *Trichomonas vaginalis*.
- Transport specimens for sperm presence/absence within 96 hours of collection.
- Deliver to: San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory 2191 Johnson Ave,  
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401

##### Rejection Criteria:

- Swabs with calcium alginate or wooden shafts.
- Trichomonas, WBC's and Clue cell detection – specimens greater than 4 hours old.
- Sperm – Specimens greater than 96 hours old.
- Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens.
- Specimen containers that are broken and/or leaking.
- Frozen specimens.