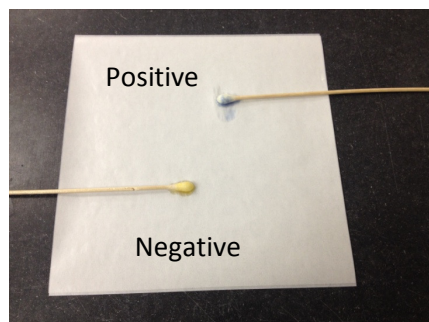


Tips for Nurses Collecting Sexual Assault Kits

- Always submit the physician's report or hospital form indicating the background of the assault as well as what samples were collected with the kit (place the report inside the kit whenever possible)
- Always complete the areas on the physician's report regarding if the victim was menstruating and the date of the victim's most recent consensual sex (can explain blood on swabs and let the biologist know if we need to request a known from a consensual sex partner for DNA)
- **Always** submit an oral swab OR bloodstain card (from finger-stick) from the victim, we use these as a known DNA standard from the victim. If an oral assault occurred (and no bloodstain card is available), collect one set of oral swabs for evidence (label as such). Have the victim rinse her mouth with water and collect a second set of oral swabs and label as "Oral swabs, Reference Standard". **We prefer NO blood tubes in the kit...**
- Toxicology: If blood tubes (MUST use GRAY top tube) or a urine specimen need to be submitted for toxicology purposes, package these separately from the kit. They must be contained in a separate sealed plastic bag for biohazard issues in case of breakage. – refrigerate as soon as possible. Degradation of drugs/alcohol may begin within 30 min-2 hours. (physician's report has a checkbox to mark if the blood is being collected for Toxicology or as a victim reference standard)
- Do NOT use Toluidine Blue on areas prior to swabbing. This chemical interferes with testing and can ruin DNA evidence
- Whenever possible, collect the standard vaginal and rectal swabs with each kit even if the victim denies that type of assault (victim might be embarrassed or might not recollect the event thus potentially losing probative evidence)
- **We have gotten great results from "kissing", "licking" and "biting" swabs** (use a slightly water-moistened swab followed by a dry swab to collect "touch" DNA from the victim's skin). We have also gotten results from areas the suspect touched/choked the victim and from waistbands of underwear/pants where the suspect pulled them down. Ask the victim specifically where the suspect contacted her body and clothing (include in physician's report). When she/you remove her clothing, avoid contacting the areas where the suspect may have touched.
- Package the underwear in the kit whenever possible. Package additional clothing separate from the kit.
- If you are collecting multiple swabs from the SAME area, put them in the SAME box. If they are packaged separately, we have to process them separately. If collecting from different areas, put them in separate boxes.
- **If you are taking a swab other than the standard vaginal/rectal/oral swabs, indicate the location swabbed on the box**
- Close both ends of the swab box. If sealing the swab box with tape, seal only the end with the swab heads (this assists with opening the box for analysis).
- Seal the kit upon completion and include the nurse's initials on the seal (and Doctor depending on hospital policy)

If you have questions don't hesitate to call or email, Main lab #: 314-615-5365

More information can be found on our website: <http://www.stlouisco.com/LawandPublicSafety/PoliceDepartment/CrimeLaboratory>



Example of Acid Phosphatase reaction, a presumptive test for seminal fluid.