MECCONTI

MicroSwabs & MicroSwabPlus

USE

MicroSwabs and *MicroSwabPlus* are ready to use pellets containing stabilized viable micro-organisms. *MicroSwabs* and *MicroSwabPlus* are recommended for use in performance testing of culture media, stains, identification kits, maintenance of stock cultures and in the evaluation of bacteriological procedures.

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION

It is essential for laboratories to maintain a reliable source of stock micro-organisms for use in microbiological procedures. A source of micro-organisms with known biochemical, physiological, serological, antimicrobial susceptibility characteristics and assay values is required for quality control, education and proficiency testing.

PRINCIPLE

MicroSwabs and *MicroSwabPlus* micro-organisms are lyophilized microbial suspensions.[1-2] Micro-organisms are suspended in a preservation medium that provides protection of the cell walls during freeze-drying and subsequent extended storage. The preservation medium contains an agent to neutralize any toxic substances that may be formed during the lyophilization process. All micro-organisms are strains derived from the American Type Culture Collection and other recognized collections.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Each *MicroSwab* or *MicroSwabPlus* contains of a lyophilized pellet of a single micro-organism strain inside a system containing a sterile swab and rehydration fluid for the transfer of the organism directly to culture media. Products are packaged with dessicants to prevent any adverse accumulation of moisture.

PRECAUTIONS

MicroSwabs and *MicroSwabPlus* are for in-vitro use only.

These devices, and subsequent growth of these microorganisms on culture media, are considered to be biohazard material.

MicroSwabs and *MicroSwabPlus* contain viable micro-organisms and should be used only by laboratory personnel who must be trained and experienced in bacteriological technics and processing.

The microbiology laboratory must be equipped, and have the facilities to receive, process, maintain, store and dispose of biohazard material.

After use, disposal of all biohazardous material should be decontaminate comply with the statutes of regulation for biohazard disposal.

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

MicroSwabs and *MicroSwabPlus* should be stored at 2-8 °C. Remove only the quantity required for immediate use.

EVIDENCE OF DETERIORATION

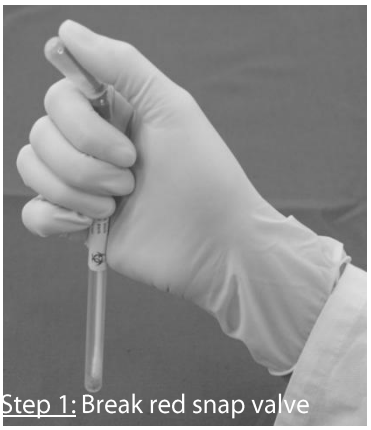
Do not use *MicroSwabs* and *MicroSwabPlus* if there is evidence of hydration of the pellet or if the expiration date has passed. Improper storage or handling which leads to abnormal accumulation of moisture or heat may render the micro-organism non-viable.

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

The usual microbiological laboratory equipment such as incubator, inoculating loops and for optimizing growth and recovery non-selective, nutrient or enriched agar medium are needed for procedures involving the use of this product.

PROCEDURE

1. Remove only the amount of *MicroSwabs* or *MicroSwabPlus* needed for testing. No warm up is required.
2. Break the red “snap” valve by bending to a 45° angle.
3. Gently squeeze cap until all fluid moistens the lyophilized pellet in the bottom of tube.
4. Gently shake, so swab can be saturated with the hydrated material.
5. Remove cap from tube and immediately transfer to an appropriate, non-selective medium and inoculate a circular area. To singularise colonies use a sterile loop and repeatedly streak through the inoculated area.
6. Incubate inoculated media at temperatures and atmospheric conditions appropriate for the micro-organisms.
7. Following the incubation, select representative well-isolated colonies for indicated transfers.
8.


Step 1: Break red snap valve


Step 2: Squeeze to rehydrate


Step 3: Remove cap, inoculate plates.

LIMITATIONS

Growth results may vary when directly proceed on more inhibitory or selective media.

To achieve best results for growth and recovery please refer to our Technical Information "Recommended Growth Requirements".

REFERENCES

1 Obara, Y., S. Yamai, T. Nikkawa, Y. Shimoda, and Y. Miyarnoto. 1981. Preservation and transportation of bacteria by a simple gelatin disk method. J. Clin. Microbiol. 14:61-86.

2 Monaghan, R.L.; M.M. Gagliadri, and S.L. Streicher. 1999, *In* Demain and Davies (ed.), Manual of industrial microbiology and biotechnology, 2nd ed. ASM, Washington, D.C.

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