

TRANSWAB® AMIES

Transwab® gel medium (Amies)
for recovery of aerobes, anaerobes
and fastidious organisms

Transwab® was the world's first commercially produced self-contained transport swab with semi-solid medium suitable for both aerobes and anaerobes.



PRACTICAL AND ACCURATE

Based on the improved maintenance performance offered by Amies formulation, using non-nutrient inorganic buffering to limit indiscriminate overgrowth, and semi-solid gel to reduce oxygen diffusion, it completely transformed the scope for swab-based specimens. The sterile swab kits have a long shelf life and can be stored at ambient temperatures and so are suitable for use both in major hospitals and in community-based practices and clinics.

Reliable maintenance and recovery for all classes of bacteria mean the collected specimen can be sent with confidence to either the local pathology laboratory, or to regional and national reference laboratories knowing that the specimen will continue to represent an accurate indication of the patient's condition.

CHARCOAL WITHOUT INTERFERENCE

Transwab® utilises Amies medium with or without charcoal. One of the innovations of Amies medium was to incorporate charcoal into the medium instead of having it as a powdery coating of the swab bud. This arrangement is much preferred by patients. The role of the charcoal is to adsorb substances within the specimen which could interfere with the survival of fastidious bacteria. By using fine grade charcoal, the particles do not interfere with interpretation of Gram stains.

FEATURES

- Transwab® medium (Amies) for outstanding recovery of aerobes, anaerobes and fastidious organisms
- Rayon bud (open weave for optimum release of microorganisms)
- Low bioburden
- The "Bell-cap" on the swab forms a double seal both inside and outside the tube
- Fully CLSI M40-A2 compliant

BENEFITS

- Transport at ambient or refrigerated temperatures
- Open weave bud for optimum release and improved sensitivity in diagnostic tests
- Best for Gram stains

MEETING THE STANDARD

Transwab® has always been known for excellent recoveries of all target organisms. Over the years, however, the emergence of other swab products and transport devices led to a requirement for a standard to allow users to assess and select devices. This resulted in the publication by the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) of its Approved Standard M40 (2003) and more recently M40-A2 (2014). For transport swabs this required recovery at room temperature and refrigeration temperature to be measured for ten specified bacteria. When tested using both the swab elution method and the roll-plate method, bacteria should not drop in numbers by more than 3 log₁₀ under both holding conditions, or increase by more than 1 log₁₀ at refrigeration temperature.

MEETING THE STANDARD (CONTINUED)

MWE was an early adopter of this standard, and Transwab® with Amies Medium with or without Charcoal are fully M40-A2 compliant. Full compliance requires that ALL TEN reference strains are recovered after the specified holding period of 48 hours (24 hours for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) at both room temperature and refrigeration temperature.

CLSI M40-A2 also defines acceptable and non-acceptable levels of bioburden for semi-solid medium, to ensure satisfactory performance of Gram stains, often a vital first stage in any microbiological assessment of a specimen.

CONSTRUCTION

Wood and cotton are never used for MWE Transwab® products. Both of these materials are known to release anti-bacterial fatty acids which can seriously affect the recovery of fastidious organisms. Rayon has long been recognised as the best spun fibre for microbiology specimens with semi-solid media. The open weave bud on MWE Transwab® allows superb release of the collected bacteria ensuring optimum recovery. For more specialist investigations Transwab® is supplied with appropriate shafts whether straight wire with narrow bud for urethral sampling, or ultra-fine twisted wire with mini-tip bud for nasopharyngeal sampling. Transwab® has colour coded caps to identify between product types.

SAFETY FIRST

Many of the best features of Transwab® have been designed with safety in mind, both for the users, and for the microorganisms in the specimen. The "Bell-cap" on the swab forms a double seal both inside and outside the tube, while the bell-shaped shroud helps to prevent inadvertent contact between the swab and the user's fingers. The ultra-fine twisted wire used in Pernal (nasopharyngeal) Transwab® has a true loop at the end of the wire so there are no sharp edges which could injure the patients (often babies and small children) or clinician.

A CLEAR VIEW

Careful selection of raw materials ensures MWE's Transwab® has a clear background for clean Gram stains.

LONG LASTING

MWE's Transwab® devices have a shelf-life of two years and can be stored at ambient temperatures.

REGULATORY

MWE's Transwab® devices are CE-marked as Class IIA medical devices, and also as in vitro diagnostic medical devices in conformity to the European Medical Device Directives. MWE is accredited to ISO 13485. Most MWE Transwab® and Transtube® products are FDA cleared. The products are also registered as medical devices in most other countries and trading areas.

CARY BLAIR MEDIUM

Cary Blair Medium is similar to Amies, but more alkaline and without charcoal. It is mainly used for faecal specimens.



Amies Medium					
Product Code		Description	Swab Application	Pack Size	Cap
MW170	Amies Medium Plain	Plastic Shaft	Wound, Skin, Urogenital, Throat	125	Blue
MW171	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Plastic Shaft	Wound, Skin, Urogenital, Throat	125	Black
MW172P*	Amies Medium Plain	Straight Aluminium Wire Shaft	Urogenital, Ear	125	Orange
MW173P*	Amies Medium Plain	Ultra-fine Twisted Wire	Nasopharyngeal, Paediatric	125	Light Blue
MW172C*	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Straight Aluminium Wire Shaft	Urogenital, Ear	125	Orange
MW173C*	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Ultra-fine Twisted Wire	Nasopharyngeal, Paediatric	125	Light Blue

Amies Medium Duo Swab					
Product Code		Description	Swab Application	Pack Size	Cap
MW169P	Amies Medium Plain	Duo Plastic Shaft	Wound, Skin, Urogenital, Throat	125	White
MW169C	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Duo Plastic Shaft	Wound, Skin, Urogenital, Throat	125	White

Cary Blair Medium					
Product Code		Description	Swab Application	Pack Size	Cap
MW168*	Cary Blair Medium	Plastic Shaft	Rectal, Faecal	125	Red

* Class 1s Device

