

How to collect a wound drainage specimen

Supplies

Aerobic culture:

ESwab standard tip collection kit (white), other bacterial culture swab or sterile container for fluid

Anaerobic culture:

Fluid: Port-A-Cul Anaerobic Culture Vial
Swab: ESwab standard tip collection kit (white)

Closed abscess:

1. Decontaminate the skin overlying the abscess with 70% alcohol followed by a tincture of iodine or chlorhexidine solution. The surface must be allowed to dry completely prior to sampling the abscess.
2. Aspirate the abscess contents with a sterile needle and syringe.
3. **Anaerobic** culture:
 - a. Disinfect the rubber stopper of Port-A-Cul anaerobic culture vial .
 - b. Express all the air from the syringe.
 - c. Inject fluid through rubber stopper into Port-A-Cul anaerobic culture vial.

Note: Both anaerobic and aerobic culture may be performed from the specimen in this vial
4. **Aerobic** culture:
 - a. Inject the fluid into a sterile container.
 - b. If a very small volume specimen is retrieved, remove the needle from syringe, stopper, and send syringe for testing.

Open lesion or abscess:

1. Decontaminate the skin adjacent to the wound to remove superficial flora using sterile saline or a 70% alcohol wipe.
2. Open and remove the ESwab tube and swab applicator.
3. Taking care not to touch the areas of the swab shaft below the red breakpoint line, use the ESwab to firmly sample the advancing margin of the interior of the lesion.

Note: Do not submit pus only, as pus does not adequately represent the flora of the lesion.
4. Aseptically remove cap from tube.
5. Insert the swab into the tube and bend the shaft against the tube at the colored line to break the swab shaft.
6. Replace the cap on the tube and secure tightly.
7. Label the specimen with the patient's name, ID#, specimen source, and date and time of collection.

Note: Both aerobic and anaerobic cultures may be performed from a single ESwab specimen.