



Press Release

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New Clinical Study Finds ESwab Superior Collection and Transport System for Screening Pregnant Women for *Group B Streptococcus* (GBS)



Murrieta, CA – May 29, 2012 – Universal screening of all pregnant women at 35 to 37 weeks gestation for vaginorectal colonization to prevent early onset GBS disease is now a widely adopted practice. Optimal confirmation of GBS colonization is facilitated by the appropriate collection and transport of the clinical specimen to the laboratory. Swab systems have become increasingly important because of delays in specimen transport derived from recent strategies of cost-containment and consolidation of laboratory services. Specimens may be in transit for long durations, and the integrity of the specimen may be compromised. Performance of swab transport systems therefore is essential for accurate laboratory diagnosis and timely treatment of GBS disease. However, few published comparative studies exist. A new study in the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* compared the performance of ESwab with traditional Amies transport swabs and found Copan ESwab was superior to Amies at all

temperatures evaluated but especially at room temperature conditions (21°C and 24°C).

Superior transport and preservation of *Group B Streptococcus* and many other clinically important bacteria in ESwab is by virtue of the improved transport medium formulation and dramatically improved fluid dynamics thanks to the flocked swab incorporated in each ESwab collection kit. ESwab kits comprise of a tube containing 1ml of modified

Liquid Amies Medium and a flocced swab. The invention of flocced swabs by Copan results in a significantly greater volume of sample uptake and complete sample elution into the transport medium. This improved fluid dynamics combined with ESwab preservation medium ensures superior preservation and detection of bacteria in clinical samples.

Sample collection, preservation and transport play a critical role in obtaining reliable test results for patients. "We recognize that though our products may be used at the beginning of the process, there is a human being waiting on accurate and timely results at the end. The combination of Copan flocced swabs with ESwab and UTM liquid transport medium has made a significant contribution to improve the quality of specimen collection and laboratory test results" says Norman Sharples, CEO and Co-Founder of Copan Diagnostics Inc.

Link to Journal of Clinical Microbiology article:

<http://jcm.asm.org/cgi/content/abstract/50/7/2446?ct=ct>

Copan holds patents for flocced swabs in the United States, Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and China.

About COPAN Group

With a reputation for innovation, Copan is the leading manufacturer of collection and transport systems in the world. Copan's collaborative approach to preanalytics has resulted in Flocced Swabs, ESwab, Universal Transport Medium and laboratory automation, WASP® and WASPLab. Copan carries a range of microbial sampling products, inoculation loops, and pipettes. For more information, visit www.copanusa.com