

Vaginal swab patient collection guide

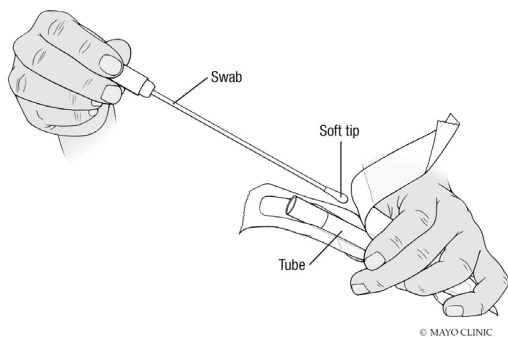
How to collect your sample

1. Wash your hands with warm water and soap.



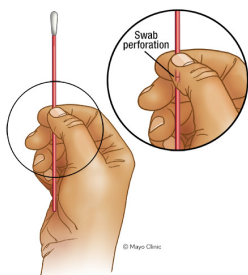
2. Put a clean paper towel on the counter or in the sink. Set the collection tube and the package with the swab on the paper towel.

3. Open the package with the swab in it. Open the end of the package so you can pull the swab out of the package by the handle. Do not let the swab tip touch anything.

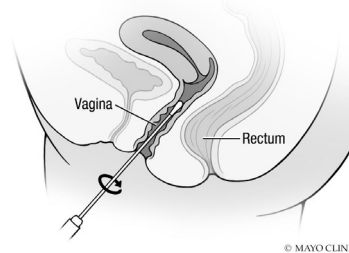


4. Hold the middle of the swab with your thumb and index finger.

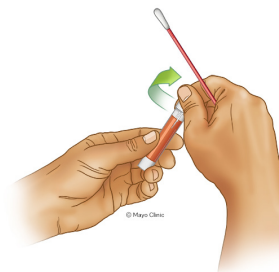
The swab has a score line in the middle. This makes it easy to snap in half after you collect the sample. Do not snap the swab before you collect your sample.



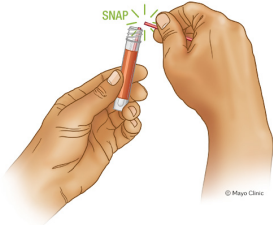
5. Hold the swab so that the soft tip is pointing to your vagina. Do not touch the swab to anything but your vagina.
6. Hold only the plastic end of the swab. Use one of these positions to collect the sample:
 - **Standing:** Stand with one foot resting on a toilet or bench.
 - **Sitting:** Sit on a firm surface such as an exam table or chair or toilet with your legs spread apart.
7. With your other hand, spread apart the labia which are the folds of skin around the opening to the vagina. Insert the tip of the swab about 2 inches (5 centimeters) into your vagina. Rotate the swab for 10-30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the sides of the vagina.



8. Remove the cap from the collection tube. There is a liquid preservative in the tube.



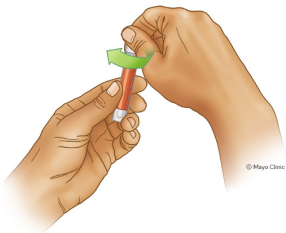
9. Place the swab in the tube so the soft tip is at the bottom of the tube. Snap off the top of the swab at the score line.



10. Throw away the top of the swab.



11. Put the cap back on the tube. Close it tightly to prevent any leaks.



12. Wash your hands with soap and water.

13. Return the sealed tube to your healthcare team.

If you have questions about these instructions or any medical condition, talk with a member of your healthcare team.