

Aptima HSV 1 & 2 Assay



The Aptima® Herpes Simplex Viruses 1 & 2 assay is an in vitro diagnostic nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), using real time transcription-mediated amplification (TMA), for the qualitative detection and differentiation of herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) and type 2 (HSV-2) messenger RNA (mRNA) in specimens from anogenital skin lesions to aid in the diagnosis of HSV-1 and/or HSV-2 infections in symptomatic male and female patients.

A. Specimen collection

Note: Handle all specimens as if they contain potentially infectious agents. Use Universal Precautions.

Note: Take care to avoid cross-contamination during sample handling steps. For example, discard used material without passing over open tubes.

Lesion samples may be collected using the Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit. The Collection instructions are as follows:

1. Do not use disinfectants or cleaners on the lesion before the specimen is collected.
2. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection kit.
3. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line. Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.
4. If needed, expose the base of the lesion to access fluid. Vigorously swab the base of the lesion to absorb fluid, being careful not to draw blood. Withdraw the swab without touching any other site outside the lesion.
5. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube. Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection kit.
6. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.
7. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.
8. Discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
9. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube.

B. Specimen transport and storage before testing:

Transport and store the specimen in the Aptima Multitest Swab Transport Media (STM) at 2°C to 30°C until tested. Specimens must be tested with the Aptima HSV 1 & 2 assay within 36 days of collection.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need more information, contact Cytology at Pathology Services Laboratory by phone at 479-968-6781 or 1-800-874-4904 or by email at PSLab@pathologyserviceslab.com.