

COPAN DUAL 4N6FLOQSWABS™ ALLLOWS ORIGINAL SAMPLE RECORD RETENTION

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Introduction: It's always important to retain a portion of the original sample from crime scene investigation and for legal cases involving paternity testing. The current practice is to use cotton swabs and a portion of the wound cotton is shaved for testing and the remainder of the swab is stored as record. Copan, has manufactured a dual 4N6FLOQSwabs™ that consists of two identical swabs attached to the same handle and stored in a plastic tube. Both swabs have a 20 mm breaking point in order to facilitate testing of one swab immediately and storing the other swab in the original tube for further testing or as a record of the evidence. Dual 4N6FLOQSwabs™ are available for use in both genetics and crime scene evidence collection. The crime scene 4N6FLOQSwabs™ are treated with a reagent consequently there is no need to dry the swabs after sample collection to prevent bacterial polypheration.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to evaluate the dual 4N6FLOQSwabs™ ease of use, practicality and recovery of comparable sample quantity by both swabs from: 1) Blood, saliva traces on different surfaces; and 2) Buccal swabs for crime scene investigation or paternity testing. Using guidelines, developed by Copan, for proper use of 4N6FLOQSwabs™ during samples collection, the buccal swabs were collected from donors with dual Genetics 4N6FLOQSwabs™ and dried blood or saliva traces with dual crime scene 4N6FLOQSwabs™. After collection, the dual 4N6FLOQSwabs™ was placed into its own transport tube and stored until testing. Each dual swab was individually broken into a nucleic acid optimizer (NAO™) basket and nucleic acid was extracted with the PrepFiler®. Nucleic acid was quantified with the Quantifiler® and profiled with the Identifiler Plus® (by Life Technologies).

Results: Similar quantities of DNA were obtained from each swab tested separately among all buccal or blood traces. Data obtained from this validation, demonstrated that dual 4N6FLOQSwabs™ are recovering enough sample on both swabs to obtain a full STR profile.

Conclusions: Copan 4N6FLOQSwabs™ used with the NAO™ baskets are user-friendly and very practical for initial sample testing and sample record retention. Comparable amounts of nucleic acid are collected from the same sample by each of the 2 swabs. Copan Genetic and crime scene dual 4N6FLOQSwabs™ facilitate sample retention for retesting without manipulations.