

NASOPHARYNGEAL WASH WITHOUT MECHANICAL SUCTION

GOAL: Collect ciliated columnar respiratory epithelial cells from posterior nasopharynx for virus tests

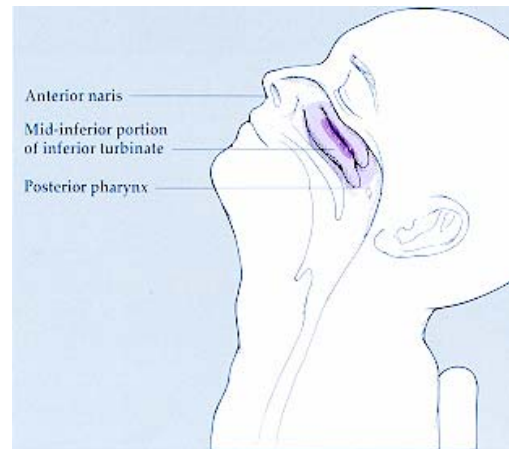
MATERIALS NEEDED:

Personal protective equipment
Facial tissue
Sterile nonbacteriostatic saline (eg. bullets)
Sealable biohazard bags
Closable sterile specimen container (eg. sterile urine cup)
Shipping container with cold pack (outside clients)

Syringe method:

3-5 ml sterile disposable syringe
Sterile soft catheter, eg. # 8 soft French feeding tube. Base syringe size and tubing length on age and size of patient.

Bulb method: 1-2 oz tapered tip sterile rubber bulb



COLLECTION METHOD

NOTE: Use two care providers for this technique if possible, one to hold the patient and the other to collect specimen.



1. Don PPE. Wipe excess mucus from patient's nose with facial tissue.
2. Fill syringe with 1-4 ml saline. Amount depends on size and age of patient. Attach tubing to syringe tip.
3. Tilt patient's head back slightly beyond "sniff position." Instruct older patients not to swallow.
4. Instill saline into one nostril while holding second nostril closed.
5. Aspirate fluid gently while withdrawing and rotating tube to dislodge cells and secretions.

NOTE: Recovery must occur rapidly or instilled fluid will rapidly drain down the throat.

6. Inject specimen into the container. Repeat with other nostril and inject specimen into same container.
7. Label container and place in biohazard bag. Discard syringes and tubing or bulb in biohazard waste.
8. Tube specimen immediately to lab or send on wet ice.