

Claims

1. A tip for a swab for collecting a specimen from a subject, the tip being shaped for insertion into, and collection of the specimen from, a body cavity of the subject, and comprising a plurality of curved blades defining an internal reservoir for receiving the specimen, the tip being attached or attachable to a rod.
2. The tip of 1, wherein the tip has a length and each blade is continuous along the length.
3. The tip of 1 or 2, wherein each curved blade is a helical blade.
4. The tip of 3, wherein each curved blade comprises between one and two helical turns.
5. The tip of 4, wherein each curved blade comprises about 1.5 helical turns.
6. The tip of any one of 1 to 5, wherein the curved blades are equidistantly, circumferentially spaced around the tip.
7. The tip of any one of 1 to 6, comprising between five and nine curved blades.
8. The tip of any one of 1 to 7, wherein the curved blades have an outer side for contacting an internal wall of the cavity, and an inner side, the internal reservoir being defined between the inner sides of the curved blades.
9. The tip of 8, wherein the curved blades are spaced to transfer the specimen from the cavity to the reservoir under capillary action.

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10. The tip of any one of 1 to 9, wherein each curved blade extends along a coterminous length of the tip.
11. The tip of 1, wherein the curved blades curve in a common direction.
12. The tip of 11, wherein the tip further comprising a plurality of oppositely curved blades, the oppositely curved blades curving in a direction opposite to the common direction, the oppositely curved blades being offset inwardly of the curved blades.
13. The tip of 12, wherein each oppositely curved blade is a helical blade.
14. The tip of 12 or 13, wherein the oppositely curved blades have an outer side for contacting the curved blades, and an inner side, the internal reservoir being defined between the inner sides of the oppositely curved blades.
15. The tip of any one of 1 to 14, further comprising one or more perpendicular supports for supporting the blades between opposite ends of the tip.
16. The tip of any one of 1 to 15, wherein each blade comprises a square cross-section.
17. The tip of any one of 1 to 16, wherein a surface of the curved blades is textured.
18. The tip of 1, wherein the curved blades each form a helix and curve in a first direction, the tip further comprising a plurality of oppositely curved blades, the oppositely curved blades curving in a second direction opposite the first direction, the oppositely curved blades being offset inwardly of the curved blades, wherein the curved blades and oppositely

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curved blades define diamond-shaped apertures through which the sample is conveyed into the reservoir.

19.The tip of 18, wherein the diamond-shaped apertures are longer in a longitudinal direction of the swab than in a transverse direction.

20.The tip of any one of 1 to 19, wherein the blades have sufficient rigidity to scrape a sample from an internal wall of the cavity, and are sufficiently flexible to vary a spacing between neighbouring ones of said blades, during rotation of the swab in the cavity, to drive the sample into the reservoir.

21.A swab comprising:

- a tip according to any one of claims 1 to 20; and
- a rod having a distal end, the tip being located at the distal end.

22.The swab of 21, wherein the rod is integrally formed with the tip.

23.The swab of 21, wherein the rod is attached to the tip.