

CLAIMS

1. A cervicovaginal fluid collection device comprising:
 - a generally tubular housing, a first end of the housing comprising an enclosed
 - 5 tip and a number of through holes provided at the enclosed tip;
 - a probe provided within the housing, a first end of the probe provided with a
 - screw-like structure, the screw-like structure having a sliding fit with an inner
 - bore of the housing, at least a first end of the screw-like structure provided
 - at the enclosed tip of the housing; and
 - 10 a fluid-absorbing swab provided on the probe within the housing adjacent a
 - second end of the screw-like structure to absorb fluid drawn into the housing;
 - wherein rotation of the screw-like structure relative to the housing draws fluid
 - that is adjacent and exterior to the enclosed tip of the housing into the
 - housing through at least one of the through holes; and
 - 15 wherein fluid drawn into the housing is absorbed by the fluid-absorbing swab.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the screw-like structure comprises a helical
- structure wrapped around a central shaft.
- 20 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the crests of the helical structure form a fluid-seal
- with the inner bore of the housing.
4. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the enclosed tip has a
- rounded configuration.
- 25 5. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the probe is removable
- from the housing and insertable into a conventional centrifuge tube to allow
- collection of the cervicovaginal fluid from the fluid-absorbing swab into the
- centrifuge tube.
- 30 6. The device of claim 5, wherein the probe is provided with a breakable portion
- provided between the fluid-absorbent swab and a second end of the probe for
- shortening the probe by breaking the probe at the breakable portion to allow

complete insertion and sealing of the shortened probe within the conventional centrifuge tube.

7. The device of claim any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a cap in
5 fixed connection with a second end of the probe, the cap provided outside a
second end of the housing to facilitate rotation of the probe to rotate the screw-
like structure relative to the housing.
8. The device of claim 7, wherein the fixed connection comprises a snap-fit joint
10 allowing the cap to be detached from the second end of the probe.
9. The device of claim 7 or 8 wherein the cap encloses the second end of the
housing and is in rotatable engagement with the housing.
- 15 10. The device of claim 9 when dependent on claim 2, wherein the cap and the
housing are configured to allow the rotatable engagement in only a specific
direction dependent on direction of twist of the helical structure around the
central shaft.
- 20 11. The device of claim 10, wherein the second end of the housing comprises a lip
having a number of angled teeth to serve as a ratchet and wherein an inner
surface of a generally cylindrical wall of the cap is provided with a number of
angled protrusions to serve as pawls that engage the ratchet.
- 25 12. The device of any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the cap comprises a number of
protruding stops provided on an outer surface of a generally cylindrical wall of
the cap.
- 30 13. The device of any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the cap is provided with an
extension cup offset from a main body of the cap enclosing the second end of
the housing.