

CS-1 or CS-2 with the OG-250 kit – using saliva sponges to collect DNA samples from infants and young children

When using sponges to collect DNA please use the following instructions and disregard the instructions in the container packaging.

Introduction

Saliva can be collected from most adult donors and children by following the user instructions for spitting directly into the Oragene•DNA self-collection kit. However, infants and young children are unable to spit the required 1 mL to 2 mL of saliva. DNA Genotek has developed a collection procedure for infants and young children that uses saliva sponges and the Oragene•DNA self-collection kit to collect a sample. DNA yield is proportional to saliva volume¹. The saliva sponges included in the kit are ideal for collecting the relatively large amount of saliva present in the cheek pouches of young children. More DNA can be collected by taking several saliva sponge samples from each child over a period of time.

Preparing for saliva collection

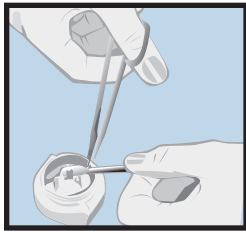
- If using CS-2, you will need a pair of clean, sharp scissors to cut the sponges into the kit.
- Caution should always be used when inserting anything into a child's mouth. It is recommended that the adult maintain control of the sponge at all times and never leave the child unattended when using the sponges. We recommend that you only use the sponges provided and that you do NOT substitute with other sponges or swabs.
- Although not required, the child may drink water or brush teeth with water before the collection. After rinsing or brushing, wait at least 10 minutes before collecting a saliva sample. If the child is nursing, wait 15–20 minutes after feeding before collecting a saliva sample.
- Some children find that the saliva sponge tickles their gums. Depending on the age of the child, it may be helpful to explain ahead of time that the collection will be a fun experience that will not take long and that the sponge may tickle.
- Try not to rub directly on the child's teeth to minimize the amount of bacteria transferred to the sponge.
- If a donor can provide some saliva, but not the full amount, through spitting, it is perfectly acceptable to combine saliva from spitting together with saliva sponges in the same Oragene•DNA kit.
- If the donor is unable to provide sufficient saliva within the recommended 10–15 minutes (which would be very rare), the following procedure can be tried. Securely cap the Oragene•DNA kit after 15 minutes – this will release the Oragene•DNA liquid. Mix the contents of the kit gently by inversion 10 times. When a second collection is to be attempted (this can be days later if convenient), place the kit on a flat surface and carefully open the kit, taking care to avoid spilling any of the liquid. Place the cap on a flat surface with the inside facing upwards. Proceed with further collection of saliva using the remaining sponges. Extra care should be taken when cutting off the sponge from the handle to avoid spillage. A maximum of 5 sponges should be used per Oragene•DNA kit.

Collecting saliva



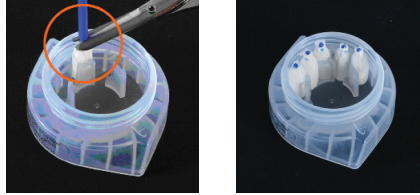
1. Place the saliva sponge into the child's mouth in the cheek pouch (the space between the gums and the inner cheek). Gently move the saliva sponge around the upper and lower cheek pouches on both sides of the mouth to soak up as much saliva as possible. There is no need to 'scrape' the inner cheek with saliva sponges – simply collect as much saliva as possible from the cheek pouches. The sponge will absorb more saliva if it is left in the child's mouth for a longer time (up to 60 seconds).

For In Vitro Diagnostic Use



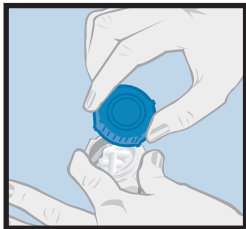
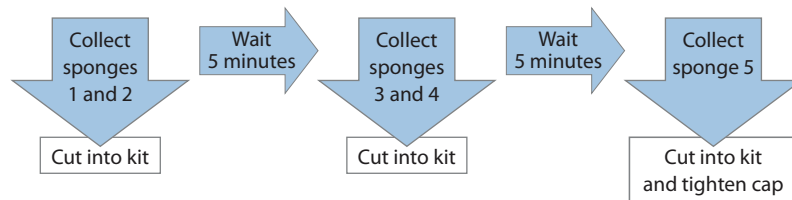
2. Once collected, cut the sponge into the base of the Oragene•DNA kit as follows: Place the sponge firmly against the bottom of the kit between the tooth and the container wall (see picture below). This action will ensure that the sponge tip remains in the container during the cutting action. Using a pair of clean, sharp scissors or ones provided, cut the sponge into the kit by cutting the narrow part of the handle just above the sponge.

Recycle or discard the plastic handle. If only one saliva sponge sample is to be collected, proceed to step 4.

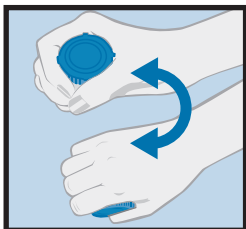


3. For the collection of up to 5 saliva sponge samples from the same child, repeat steps 1 and 2. Follow the sequence shown in the diagram below. A rest period of about 5 minutes between each collection of 2 sponges is helpful. To prevent the saliva samples from drying out, cap the kit (see step 4) within 15 minutes of the first collection. If you have not had a chance to collect all 5 sponges within 15 minutes, you may carefully re-open the kit. If you remove the cap be sure that the inside is facing upwards when putting it on any surface. Do NOT spill the content.

Follow these steps for collecting multiple sponges:



4. Carefully cap the kit and firmly tighten. Once the Oragene•DNA liquid is released from the cap, it will preserve the DNA collected by the sponge(s).



5. Invert gently 10 times to mix the sample.
6. If the scissors are to be re-used, they should be rinsed with tap water and wiped dry between donors.

References

- ¹ Chartier, J. and Birnboim, H.C. (2004). DNA yield is proportional to saliva volume. DNA Genotek. PD-WP-004.

*Oragene•DNA is a registered trademark of DNA Genotek Inc. All other brands and names contained herein are the property of their respective owners. All DNA Genotek protocols, white papers and application notes, are available in the Support section of our website at www.dnagenotek.com

