



Nasopharyngeal Aspirates/Washings

Collection

1. Aspirates

- Attach mucus trap to suction pump and catheter, leaving wrapper on suction catheter. Turn on suction and adjust to suggested pressure.
- Without applying suction, insert catheter into the nose, directed posteriorly and toward the opening of the external ear. Depth of insertion necessary to reach posterior pharynx is equivalent to distance between anterior nares and external opening of the ear.
- Apply suction. Using a rotating movement, slowly withdraw the catheter.

2. Nasopharyngeal Swab

- Seat the patient comfortably and tilt the head back.
- Insert a nasal speculum, if available.
- Insert a nasopharyngeal swab through the nares until resistance is met due to contact with the nasopharynx.
- Rotate the swab gently and maintain contact with the nasopharynx for 20-30 seconds or until coughing is induced.
- Universal Transport Media must be used because the swab tip is small and vulnerable to drying.