The CLSI M40-A quantitative elution method (1) was used to test a larger selected clinically important anaerobic bacteria. For comparison, the BBL Port-A-Cul (PAC) agar tube entrapment of microorganisms than occurs with other types of swabs (e.g., rayon or Dacron) with agar within the samples must be maintained for extended periods of time.

The fact remains that commercially available swab transport devices are used widely in healthcare facilities specimens. This commonly involves the use of swabs with transport media. Although swab specimens are

• Fisherbrand Redi Tip 1-200uL pipette tips, sterilized, catalog number 02-707-500

Table 1. Demonstrates equal performance for each of the 20 anaerobic bacteria tested in the transport systems. After swabs were held 24 h at the refrigerator compared to 0-time, recovery from ESwab was 50% compared to 24% for PAC. At room temperature, recovery from the PAC was 25%, compared to ESwab, the overall recovery from PAC was 41% at 41% and 3% for the PAC, respectively.

At refrigerator temperature, poor or no survival was noted for the rayon swab used with the PAC as indicated by higher 0-time counts for 24/25 anaerobes tested. At room temperature as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Average percent recovery of all organisms tested.

![Representative comparative data](Image 1803x1590)

![Figure 3.](Image 3854x2183)

The authors express appreciation to Copan Diagnostic (Melville, NY) for funding and supplies related to this study. The staff of the Department of Medical Microbiology are grateful to Melissa Stroud and Melissa Alsup for reviewing the study protocol, and to Debbie Sullens and Stallie Sowers for providing support of the study.