

The Spanish company Deltalab S.L. developed the STI self-sampling kit for obtaining samples from three anatomical locations: the pharynx, the vagina, urethra (in males), and the rectum. Kits included the following materials: a leaflet with instructions for self-sampling, instructions printed on the flow pack itself and a video with instructions, accessible via a QR code.

Samples were collected using two types of culture media: Amies and ViCUM[®]. Amies is a radiation-sterilized medium commonly used to preserve NG and CT throat, vaginal, and urogenital secretions. The Amies medium can be resistant to some microorganisms for up to 3 days, but it is recommended that the sample be analyzed within 24 hours of its collection. The ViCUM[®] medium is a registered trademark of Deltalab and is designed specifically for collecting microbiological samples, including NG and CT samples. Antibiotics included in ViCUM[®] medium inhibit the growth of bacteria and fungi, thereby ensuring adequate sample recovery. Following the CLSI standard, M40-A2, viruses remain infective for at least 96 hours at both room temperature (20-25 °C) and refrigeration (2-8 °C). Each tube contains glass beads to facilitate cell lysis, ensure homogeneity of samples, and maximize the elution,. The ViCUM[®] medium has been developed for cell culture and to be compatible with molecular diagnostic techniques based on polymerase chain reactions. Table S1 presents the composition of the swab sets that are included in the self-sampling kits.

Besides the self-sampling kit, an additional container was provided for the collection of urine samples, if the healthcare professional could not take urethral samples from participants.

Table S1. Self-sampling kits characteristics

	Anatomical location of the sample	NG			CT			
		Hyssop	Medium	Kit number	Anatomical location of the sample	Hyssop	Medium	Kit number
Men	Pharynx, rectum	Standard	Amies	304221KF	Rectum	Standard	ViCUM ^{®a}	304238K
	Urethra	Urethral	Without culture medium	ES300016KP.2	Urethra	Urethral	NA	300016KP.2
Women	Pharynx, rectum	Standard	Amies	304221KF	Rectum	Standard	ViCUM ^{®a}	304238K
	Vagina	Standard	Amies	304221KF	Vagina	Standard	ViCUM ^{®a}	304238K

^a Universal or UTM