

# DNA Sample Collection

## Buccal Swabs vs. Blood

DNA is a component of virtually every cell in the human body. Except for in rare circumstances, a person's DNA is identical in every cell. For instance, the DNA in a person's blood is the same as the DNA in their buccal cells, skin cells, tissue and saliva.

### Buccal Swabs vs. Blood

One common misconception is that DNA results generated from a buccal (cheek) swab will not be as accurate or reliable as those from a blood sample. In reality, buccal samples are the method of choice for DNA collection and are actually more reliable than blood samples for patients who have recently had blood transfusions or a bone marrow transplant. In these cases, the patient's blood may contain DNA from the donor, thereby generating confounding or inaccurate conclusions.

### Buccal Swab Advantages

Some of the major benefits of the buccal swab method are listed below.

- Fast and easy to perform
- Painless and non invasive
- Suitable for a newborn
- Does not require a phlebotomist
- Samples do not require refrigeration
- Does not require expensive shipping procedures and biohazard containers
- Reduced risk of exposure to blood borne diseases
- More reliable than blood samples for patients who have recently undergone blood transfusions or a bone marrow transplant

The buccal swab collection method is the most widely used and accepted method for routine DNA sample collection. The majority of paternity samples processed in the United States today utilize the buccal swab as the method of choice for DNA collection.

*Setting the Standard for Quality DNA Identification*



Chromosomal Laboratories, Inc.  
1825 W. Crest Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85027  
877.434.0292  
623.434.0292  
FAX: 623.321.6118  
www.chromosomal-labs.com  
info@chromosomal-labs.com

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