



For Forensic Physicians on the use of Lubricants

Further to the technical note, entitled 'For Forensic Physicians on the Use of Lubricants' (August 2005) advising K-Y® Lubricating Jelly as a suitable lubricant for use in forensic medical examinations where DNA processing may be required The Forensic Science Service® (FSS®) have now completed some additional research on alternative lubricants.

Pedicat® is a lubricant utilised by the medical profession and has a very similar composition to that of K-Y® Lubricating Jelly. Therefore, at the request of the Association of Forensic Physicians (AFP) research was undertaken by FSS to establish if DNA recovery was affected by Pedicat® use.

Results of the Project

The FSS research and development department concluded that the lubricating substance Pedicat® does not affect current DNA recovery methods.

Recommendation

Based upon these results and the conclusions from the previous work it can be recommended that both K-Y® Lubricating Jelly and Pedicat® are suitable lubricants for use in the context of intimate forensic medical examination. Pedicat® is available in individual sachets and may be used in forensic medical examination kit modules and as stock items.

Instructions for use (refer to national guidance regarding order of sampling and nomenclature for intimate swabs)

- Apply Pedicat® or K-Y® Lubricating Jelly (from a single sachet/tube) sparingly to the relevant instrument (speculum or proctoscope)
- Retain empty sachet/tube with the retained used instrument (or, if agreed local forensic policy, the swab of the swab of the surfaces of the instrument)
- Note use of the lubricant type and the serial number on the medical examination record in an appropriate place.

For further information contact Mary Newton on: - mary.newton@fss.pnn.police.uk

The FSS Scenesafe Unit can provide a fully comprehensive modular Medical examination kit that has been designed in conjunction with both ACPO and AFP. For further information on the kit or supplier details for the acquisition of Pedicat® lubricant please contact the Scenesafe sales office on 0870 609 2385.