**Catarrhalis Test Discs**  
**CK9131**

**Background**  
Moraxella catarrhalis, once thought to be non-pathogenic, is now considered a possible agent in respiratory infections. Because this organism can be found at the same sites as pathogenic Neisseria spp. and shares some physiological and biochemical characteristics, it is important to have a screening test for differentiation of Moraxella catarrhalis (1,2). Used in conjunction with other tests, Catarrhalis discs achieve this by demonstrating the enzymatic hydrolysis of bromo-chloro-indolyl butyrate which creates a blue reaction. Neisseria spp. do not hydrolyze this substrate and will remain colorless.

**Instructions**  
Fresh 24 hour growth from appropriate culture media (e.g. Thayer Martin or chocolate agar) gives best results.  
1. Drop the disc onto a slide or into a small test tube. Add 1 drop of water.  
2. Smear with a visible paste then incubate at room temperature for at least 5 minutes.

**Interpretation**  
3. The development of a bright blue color indicates Moraxella catarrhalis. A negative test will be colorless.

**Limitations**  
This is only part of the overall identification scheme for identification. Further tests are necessary for confirmation. Many strains of Moraxella as well as some other organisms are also butyrate esterase positive.

**Quality Control**  
This product should be tested prior to use with organisms of known reactivity. Positive & negative controls should be run in accordance with Good Laboratory Practice.

**Storage & Shelf life**  
Store in tightly closed container at <0°C in the dark.

**Health & Safety Information**  
Catarrhalis discs are impregnated with a solution of brom-chloro-indolyl butyrate in an organic solvent then air dried. This product contains no material known at this time to be hazardous.

**Reference**  