

Evidence in sexual assault cases is often screened for the presence of semen. Biological screening for semen answers two main questions.

- Are there stains present on an item which are visually consistent with semen?
  - *This is typically accomplished by examining items using an alternate light source.*
- Is the stain semen?
  - *The laboratory uses a presumptive chemical test to evaluate potential semen stains. A positive presumptive test result is indicative of, but not confirmatory for, the presence of semen.*
  - *Stains (and sometimes swabs) may also be tested for the presence of PSA (prostate specific antigen), a protein that is strongly indicative of semen, although not confirmatory.*
  - *Swabs (potentially containing semen) from SART kits and stains that are presumptive positive for semen are examined for the presence of Male DNA. Samples with sufficient male DNA may proceed to DNA analysis.*

# Semen Evidence

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