Cheek Cell Wet Mount Preparation

1. Place one drop of sterile physiological saline on a clean microscope slide. Do not touch the dropper to the slide.
2. Wet the sterile swab with your saliva before swabbing. A dry swab will tend to trap the cells preventing good transfer to the slide.
3. Swab the inside surface of one cheek. Roll the swab around firmly to get a good collection of cells.
4. Roll and wipe the swab around the surface of the slide in the saline drop to get all the cells off the swab and onto the slide.
5. Place one drop of methylene blue on the slide where you have spread the cells. Do not touch the dropper to the slide.
6. Cover the cells and dye with a cover slip (glass, not paper). Bubbles under the coverslip are OK. Wick off extra dye by holding a small piece of paper towel against the edge of the cover slip.
7. Discard the swab in the biohazard beaker. Discard the swab wrapper in the trash. Discard the blue paper towel in the trash.
8. After looking at your cheek cell preparation, discard the slide in the biohazard beaker.