INSTRUCTIONS FOR SALIVA COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN (5 and under)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIMB MALFORMATION STUDY
Please read all the instructions carefully before you begin.

1) Place the saliva sponge into the child’s mouth in the cheek pouch (the space between the gums and the inner cheek).

2) Gently move the saliva sponge around the upper and lower cheek pouches on both sides of the mouth to soak up as much saliva as possible. There is no need to ‘scrape’ the inner cheek with saliva sponges.

Tip: The sponge will absorb more saliva if it is left in the child’s mouth for a longer time (up to 60 seconds). Try not to rub directly on the child’s teeth to minimize the amount of bacteria transferred to the sponge.

3) Once collected, cut the sponge into the base of the Oragene kit as follows. Place the sponge firmly against the bottom of the kit between the tooth and the kit wall (see picture left). This action will ensure that the sponge tip remains in the container during the cutting action. Using scissors, cut the narrow part of the handle just above the sponge. Recycle/discard the plastic handle.

4) **Repeat process with all 5 swabs**

Tip: A rest period of about 5 min between each collection of 2 sponges is helpful. To prevent the saliva samples from drying out, cap the vial (see step 4) within 15 min of the first collection. If you have not had a chance to collect all 5 sponges within 15 minutes, you may carefully re-open the kit. If you remove the cap be sure that the inside is facing upwards when putting it on any surface.

4) Screw the white cap onto the collection container, being sure it is *firmly tightened* and mix gently, watching closely to make sure the vial doesn’t leak (if it does, please try tightening the cap again).

**Tip:** Please do not remove the plastic film from the white cap; it is designed to be pierced and release its liquid contents into the bottom of the vial when the cap is screwed on.

Thank you very much for your participation!