



LEGACY
LABORATORY
SERVICES

SKIN SCRAPING COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

The diagnosis of scabies can be confirmed by the demonstration of mites or eggs. Because the mites are located under the surface of the skin, scrapings must be collected from the infected area.

Materials:

- Glass slides, 1-inch X 3 inch
- Sterile scalpel
- Mineral oil
- Sterile screwcap cup large enough to hold the glass slides
- Applicator sticks
- Scotch tape

Skin Scraping Technique:

1. Place a drop of mineral oil on a sterile scalpel blade. Mites will adhere to the oil and skin scales will mix with the oil. The refractivity differences will be greater between the mite and the oil.
2. Allow some of the oil to flow onto the papule.
3. Scrape vigorously six or seven times to remove the top of the papule. There should be tiny flecks of blood in the oil.
4. Transfer the oil and scraped material to a glass slide using an applicator stick.
5. Add one or two drops of mineral oil to the slide and stir the mixture. Crush any large clumps.
6. Place another slide on top of the slide with the material and tape the two slides together at each end to prevent them from coming apart.
7. Place in a sterile cup large enough to hold the slides and screw the lid on firmly.
8. Label the container with the appropriate patient information.
9. Request skin scrapings to rule out scabies (PARASITE EXAM MACROSCOPIC).
10. Submit to laboratory for testing.

These specimens will not be collected at Legacy Patient Service Centers or Laboratories.