

IC8:0260 SCABIES SKIN SCRAPINGS

Only a physician, nurse or other health care professional who has been trained to do skin scrapings should to perform this procedure. If no one is available in your facility, a physician or a dermatologist may need to be consulted.

1.0 EQUIPMENT Kits are available in the hospital Microbiology Department or obtain the following;

- Sterile scalpel blade (a #15 works well) or fine sterile needle
- Sharps container
- Mineral oil and plastic pipette or dropper
- Gauze sponges and Band-Aids
- Frosted glass slides and glass cover slips
- Pencil to label slides with resident's and site of scrapings.
- Magnifying lens and light source such as a goose neck lamp
- Compound microscope if available

2.0 PROCEDURE

1. Wear gown and gloves
2. Examine skin with a magnifying lens and look for lesions suggestive of scabies infestation, i.e. finger webs, wrist creases, groin, trunk, buttock creases, etc. Avoid burrows that the individual has been scratching. A bright light or magnifying glass may be helpful. Look for new burrows or papules. If a burrow or papule is very fresh, a tiny mite may be seen at either end of the papule. The mite will not be found in an excoriated, scabbed or infected lesion.
3. Select an unexcoriated burrow.
4. Prepare the slide by labeling with resident's name, and then using a dropper or sterile applicator stick, transfer 2-3 drops of mineral oil to the center of the clean slide.
5. Transfer several drops of mineral oil to the selected lesion(s) and spread the oil evenly over the intended site.
6. Hold the skin taut with one hand and hold the surgical blade at a 90 degree angle.
7. Apply light pressure and scrape the lesion making several movements across the lesion increasing pressure slightly while scraping. A small amount of blood may be visible; however there should be no frank bleeding.
8. Transfer scrapings to the prepared slide. Scrape several sites if available and transfer to the same slide. Place a cover slip over the scrapings.

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PART 3 –STANDARDS

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9. Examine the entire slide under low powered magnification if trained in identifying scabies mites. If a compound microscope is not available, transport slides to a clinical laboratory.