Specimen Collection for Scabies Investigation

Equipment

Scabies collection kit available from Pathology.

Preparation

- Wash the area of skin to be scraped with an alcohol swab.
- Remove any ointment or residual applications using soap and water.
- Ensure the skin surface is dry before proceeding with the scraping.

Specimen Collection

1. Disinfect the area and allow it to dry.

2. Label the microscope slide with the patient’s full name and UR number (if applicable).

3. Apply a single drop of mineral oil to the papule and abrade the infested area with a sterile scalpel blade to the depth of pinpoint bleeding.

4. Transfer skin scrapings to a microscope slide and cover with a coverslip for transport to the laboratory. **Do not send the scalpel blade to the laboratory.** Place the slide in the secure slide holder provided so that the coverslip is not dislodged during transit.

5. Record the date, time and site of collection on the request slip.

6. Store the specimen at room temperature and deliver to the laboratory on the day of collection.

Pathology Collection
Box Hill Hospital 9895 4905
Maroondah Hospital 9871 3572
Angliss Hospital 9764 6135
Tecoma Collection Rooms 9754 1441

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