



CONWAY MEDICAL CENTER

PROCEDURE

When in hard copy form, refer to Policy Manager to validate this as the most current revision.

TITLE:	LAB-SPC -05.12 Collection of Skin Scrapings for Scabies Examination-PRO		
ISSUED BY:	Sr Tech, Microbiology	REFERENCE #:	LAB-SPC-05.12-PRO
APPROVED BY:	Lab Director	EFFECTIVE DATE:	2012-01-03

SCOPE: All potential collectors of skin scrapings.

I. **Principle of the Procedure:**

The "itch mite" or *Sarcoptes scabiei* burrows into the skin and lays eggs. The resulting larval and nymphal stages of the mite live in the burrows and adjacent hair follicles. The diagnosis of scabies can be confirmed by the microscopic examination of mites or eggs from specimens obtained by skin scrapings .

II. **Specimen:** Lesions on the skin that are suggestive of scabies infestation.

III. **Common burrow sites:**

- A. Shoulders
- B. Back
- C. Abdomen
- D. Hands
- E. Wrists
- F. Elbows
- G. Buttocks
- H. Axillae
- I. Knees
- J. Thighs
- K. Breast.

IV. **Materials Needed:** *All required materials can be obtained from the microbiology department of the laboratory.*

- A. Magnifying glass
- B. Alcohol swabs/wipes
- C. Felt tip pen (green or blue washable ink **not black**)
- D. Glass slides or curettes for scraping
- E. Coverslips
- F. Mineral oil or Immersion oil
- G. Petri Dish

V. **Procedure:**



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- A. Use the magnifying lens to identify burrows or papules. A bright light and the magnifying lens aides in visualizing the dark speck or mite at the end of the burrow.
- B. Apply mineral oil or the ink test to possible burrows. The ink test is done by using a wide felt tip pen (blue or green) over burrows. Next wipe area with an alcohol swab which will remove the surface ink but not that which was absorbed by the burrow leaving a dark irregular line.
- C. Apply mineral oil or preferably microscope immersion oil to lesions or scalpel blade and glass slides.
- D. Scrape non-excoriated, non-inflamed areas (burrows and papules) with a scapel blade or glass slide held at a 90 degree angle to the skin, while holding the skin taut.
- E. Transfer skin scrapings from at least 6 different sites to a single slide.
- F. Place slide in Petri dish and send to the Microbiology Department.

VI. Procedure Notes:

- A. To order the test: The test is in Order entry in the MIC section. The test mnemonic is:
MPE
- B. Questions? Call the Microbiology Department: **EXT 8174**
- C. Negative skin scrapings due not rule out infestation.

RECORDS: NA

REFERENCES:

1. Atlas of Human Parasitology, 5th Edition, Orihel,Ash, 2007
2. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology,5th Edition, 1997
3. Diagnosis of Scabies by Skin Scrapings, LA County Scabies Prevention and Control Guidelines, July 2009

REFERENCE STANDARDS: CAP GEN.40000; GEN.40016; GEN.40032; GEN.40050; GEN.40100

REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY:

Date	Affected Section(s)	Summary of Changes ('Reviewed' or details of change)
04/30/12dt	ALL—MCN format	See document on G drive.
04/01/13mp	All	Newest format. Reviewed no content changes.
03/06/15mp	All	Reviewed. No changes.
2/6/17 mp	All	Reviewed. No changes.