



Sample Collection for Scabies

Health Professional Guideline

Diagnostic Testing for Scabies

Diagnosis can be confirmed by the general practitioner or dermatologist through a skin scraping. The following methods are recommended.

1. A few drops of paraffin oil are placed on the affected area and the lesion is scraped removing skin and the mite +/- eggs / faeces and sent to the laboratory in a secure container for subsequent microscopy
 2. Adhesive tape test – strong transparent tape i.e. scotch tape is applied to lesion(s) then pulled off rapidly and placed on a glass slide and sent to the laboratory for subsequent microscopy. This method is often preferable in children who tolerate skin scrapings poorly
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