

How to Collect a Specimen For Scabies/Mite Exam

LAB4347

Specimens: Skin scrapings for scabies mites
Eyelashes for *Demodex* mites

Container: Scabies/ Mite Collection kit containing:

- 1 specimen slide
- 1 plain slide
- 50 mL capped conical tube
- Plastic pipet
- Container of mineral oil

Procedure:

1. Remove glass slides from the conical tube.
2. Label frosted end slide and conical tube with patient name, medical record number, and date.
3. **Eyelashes:**

Place eyelashes on the specimen slide, add a drop of mineral oil using the pipet, and cover with the plain glass slide. Secure the slides firmly together with tape. Proceed to step #4.

Skin Scrapings for Scabies:

- a. **If mite burrow can be seen**, proceed to step #3c.
 - b. **If mite burrows cannot be seen, do an Ink Test:**
 - Apply a blue or black felt-tipped pen to suspected areas. Ink any burrows or papules.
 - Wipe off ink with alcohol. Mite burrows will be revealed if the ink sinks into them.
 - c. Aspirate mineral oil into pipet and place a drop of oil onto the skin surface overlying the burrow.
 - d. Scrape along the entire length of a burrow several times with a scalpel, trying to tease the burrow contents from inside to the outer pore. Epidermal fragments and burrow contents will adhere to the oil on the blade edge. Scrape until the burrow is unroofed and ink and contents of burrow are removed.
 - e. Place the fragments on the specimen slide and cover with the plain glass slide. Secure the slides firmly together with tape.
4. Place the secured slides into the conical tube. Close cap tightly, and place tube in the biohazard bag.
 5. Order Scabies/Mite Exam (LAB4347); Enter/note specimen type.
 6. Transport to Allina Health Laboratory at ambient or refrigerated temperature.