

Scabies Prep

Synonyms	Sarcoptes Scabiei
Abbreviation	Scabies prep
Specimen type	Skin Scrapings collected with mineral oil
Container	Place scrapings on Slide
Collection requirements	<p>Only a healthcare professional who has been trained should do skin scrapings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Select a burrow or papule that has not been excoriated or scratched. They appear as serpiginous, grayish, threadlike elevations ranging from 2-10 millimeters long. They are not readily apparent and must be actively sought. A black dot may be seen at one end of the burrow, indicating the presence of a mite. High-yield locations include the webbed spaces of the fingers, flexor surfaces of the wrists, elbows, axillae, belt line, feet, scrotum in men, and areolae in women. In infants, burrows are commonly located on the palms and soles.· Place a drop of mineral oil on the collection site.· Scrape a papule vigorously six or seven times with a sterile, disposable scalpel to remove the entire top of the papule. Tiny flecks of blood should be visible in the oil.· Using the blade of the scalpel, remove all oil and transfer to a glass slide.· Repeat and collect scrapings from four or five different papules to the same slide.<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Place a cover slip on the slide over the mineral oil containing the skin scrapings.· Place the slide in a slide holder labeled with the

	patient's name and date of birth.
S/H instructions	Deliver to Lab asap.
Stability	<p>A first time infestation with scabies mites, may not cause symptoms for up to two months; however, scabies can still be transmitted during this time. If a person has had scabies before, they become sensitized to mites and symptoms generally occur much sooner, within 1 to 4 days.</p> <p>Mites burrowing under the skin cause a rash, which is most frequently found on the hands, particularly the webbing between the fingers; the folds of the wrist, elbow or knee; the penis; the breast; and/or the shoulder blades. Burrows and mites may be as few as 10-15 in number and can be difficult to find. A papular "scabies rash" may be seen in skin areas such as the buttocks, scapular region and abdomen, where female mites are absent; this may be a result of sensitization from a previous infection.</p> <p>Severe itching, especially at night and frequently over much of the body, including areas where mites are undetectable, is the most-common symptom of scabies.</p> <p>A more severe form of scabies that is more common among persons who are immunocompromised, elderly, or institutionalized is called crusted (Norwegian) scabies and is characterized by vesicles and formation of thick crusts over the skin, accompanied by abundant mites but only slight itching.</p> <p>Complications due to infestation are usually caused by secondary bacterial infections.</p>
Reference range	<p>None</p> <p>http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1109204-overview</p> <p>http://www.cdc.gov/scabies/diagnosis.html</p>

Routine / STAT T.A.T	Within 4 hours / 1 hour
Section	MICRO
LAB code	04092