



Diagnostic Laboratories

## Scotch Tape Preparation for Pinworm

### I. Materials

A. Patient specimen collection requires the following:

1. **Clear, transparent** “Scotch” tape, about 2” lengths. (**Cloudy “magic” tape must NOT be used**).
2. Microscope slide(s) with frosted end for labeling.
3. Sterile urine cup or slide container.

### II. Specimen Collection

- A. Pinworm (*Enterobius vermicularis*) eggs are deposited around the perianal region; eggs are rarely found in stools, and stool is not an appropriate specimen for the diagnosis of pinworm.
- B. The “Scotch tape” method gives the best recovery of eggs if used **before defecation, bathing or dressing in the morning**.
- C. Label the slide in pencil with the patient name, medical record number, and date.
- D. Firmly press the sticky side of a length of **clear, transparent** tape to the skin, around the folds of the anus.
  1. Use **clear, transparent tape ONLY**. Cloudy, “magic” tape must not be used.
- E. Apply the tape, sticky side down, to the clear section of the labeled microscope slide. Cut off any excess tape that may overlap the edges of the slide.
- F. Place the slide in the specimen cup/container, and deliver to the laboratory along with an appropriate requisition.