

Department of Microbiology
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Sample Collection for : **Dermatophyte culture**

This is used for the collection of skin scrapings, hair or nails from patients with suspected fungal infections.

- This pack consists of:
- a) Dermapak[®] collection pack (or equivalent) - this is used as it has a black paper background on which the material is easier to see.
NB a sterile white top 30ml 'Universal' can also be used

SAMPLING

Skin

In skin infections, a fungal lesion usually spreads outwards in a concentric fashion with healing in the central region. Material can be collected by scraping outwards from the edges of the lesion(s) with a scalpel blade. Scrapings should be collected into a Dermapak[®] collection pack.

Hair/scalp

Specimens from the scalp are best obtained by scraping with a blunt scalpel so that the sample includes hair stubs, contents of plugged follicles and scales. Hairs that have been cut rather than plucked are seldom satisfactory. Hairs can be sent in a Dermapak[®] collection pack.

Nail

Nail specimens should be clipped from the free edge, taken as far back in the nail as possible and should include the full thickness. Nails can be sent in a Dermapak[®] collection pack or plastic 'universal' container.