

Skin scraping for scabies mite in KWC GOPC: efficacy in our practice and the improvement strategies



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Introduction:

Scabies is a skin infestation by mite *Sarcoptes scabiei hominis* and it is not uncommonly seen in the elderly, OAH patients in our community. Typical features include burrow, groove over fingers and limbs. Face is spared except in young children. For doubtful cases, colleagues sometimes will order skin scraping for scabies mite for a definitive diagnosis.

However, the test has low sensitivity (46%) and low negative predictive value (77%).

A review was therefore conducted in KWC GOPC to assess the efficacy of this tedious investigation and future improvement strategies were suggested.

Methods:

The skin scraping for Scabies from Jan to Aug 2018 was retrieved. Results are shared in the doctors' meeting and improvement strategies suggested. Second review for the same period was conducted in 2019 to see any improvement.

Results:

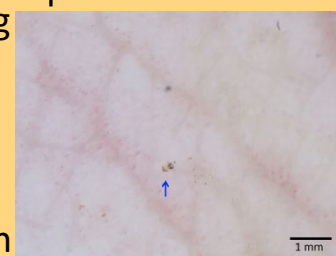
From Jan- Aug 2018, 26 skin scraping for scabies were performed in KWC GOPC. None of them yielded positive result. The investigation was ordered by 7 different doctors, ordered frequency ranged from 1, 2, 4 and 7 times. The findings were shared in doctors' meeting. Doctors are suggested to prescribe the treatment if suspect scabies infection rather than order and wait for the results due to low sensitivity.

Second review in the same period in 2019 was conducted. There was a drop to 15 tests ordered and all the results were negative. The investigation was ordered by 9 different doctors with frequency ranged from 1 to 4 times.

During these 2 review periods, there were 123 tests ordered in Kowloon West Cluster and there were 7 positive results noted in other departments.

Conclusion:

- Skin scraping for Scabies is a tedious but low yield procedure in GOPC setting
- **Several strategies are suggested:**
 1. Doctor: Treat patient directly for suspected cases. Improve communication with nurses the site to do scraping
 2. Nurses : Review the procedure process and the infection control issue
 3. Dermatoscopy is an alternative simpler yet sensitive (0.83) option for trained family physician



Delta sign found in scabies, blue arrow (1)

Ref: (1) A case of gamasoidosis caused by *Dermanyssus gallinae*, misdiagnosed as delusional parasitosis - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Entodermoscopy-of-a-delta-sign-found-in-scabies-blue-arrow-polarized-light-dermoscopy_fig3_325620349