Diagnostic techniques

A trichogram is most useful for detecting dermatophytes and Demodex mites. It can be particularly useful for areas that are difficult to skin scrape, for example the periorbital area, ear canals, interdigital and painful lesions.

Deep Skin Scraping

Technique

1. Use forceps to pluck hairs from affected areas.
2. Place hairs on a microscope slide.
3. Cover with mineral oil and a coverslip.
4. Examine under a microscope

Interpretation -

Demodex

Record the number of eggs, larvae, nymphs and adults per high power field for monitoring. Fusiform (spindle-shaped) Demodex eggs are deposited in hair follicles.

- Demodex larvae have 6 legs.
- Demodex nymphs have 8 legs.
- Adult Demodex mites are cigar-shaped, with 8 legs.

Dermatophytes

Examination of hair shafts or scale may show fungal hyphae and/or arthrospores.