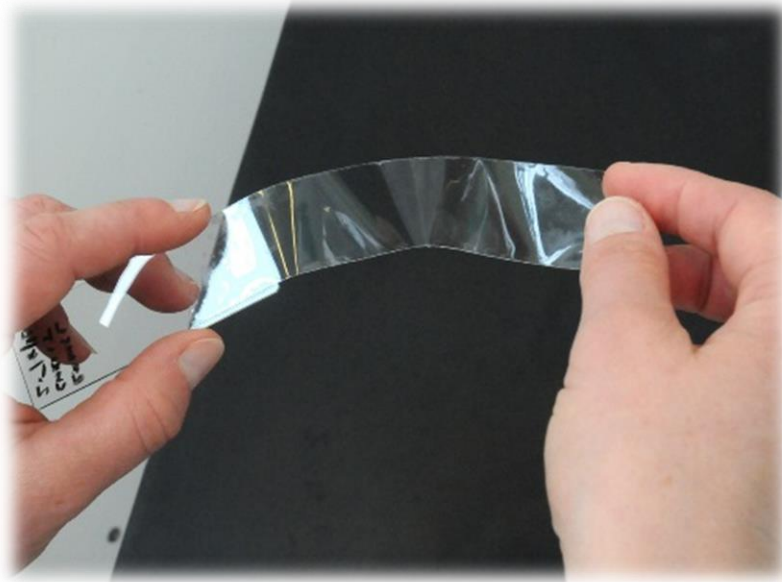


# Tape Strip



## Disclaimer

A series of booklets has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from the School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol, UK.

Please note:

- Each booklet illustrates one way to perform a skill and it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets students should check with their university or college whether the approach illustrated is acceptable in their context or whether an alternative method should be used.
- The booklets are made available in good faith and may be subject to changes.
- In using these booklets you must adopt safe working procedures and take your own risk assessments, checked by your university, college etc. The University of Bristol will not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from failure to adhere to such practices.

This work is under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.



© The University of Bristol, 2017

## Equipment list: Tape Strip

### Equipment for this station:

- Sellotape
- Glass microscope slides
- Wax marker crayon
- Gloves
- Diff-Quik booklet ('CSL\_L06 Diff-Quik Staining')
- Diff-Quik stain solutions in screw top pots (x3)
- Sink and tap
- Incontinence sheet and/or paper towel

### Considerations for this station:

- There are useful supporting videos available on Blackboard (> eLearning - CVS 2 > Dermatology videos)
- Tape strip tests are a convenient and inexpensive method for skin cytology (especially in difficult to reach areas such as skin folds and interdigital spaces)
- Plain tape strips (unstained) can be used to collect hair and skin debris to detect ectoparasites e.g. fleas, lice and mites.
- Make sure you are familiar with 'CSL\_I02 Lab Area Rules': wear a correctly fastened lab coat/scrub top, mop up spills, spray work surface with 1% Virkon and wash hands in the hand wash sink.
- If you are allergic to sellotape – wear gloves and do not perform the technique on your own skin.

Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the 'CSL\_I01 Induction' and agree to abide by the 'CSL\_I00 House Rules' & 'CSL\_I02 Lab Area Rules'

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

# Clinical Skills:

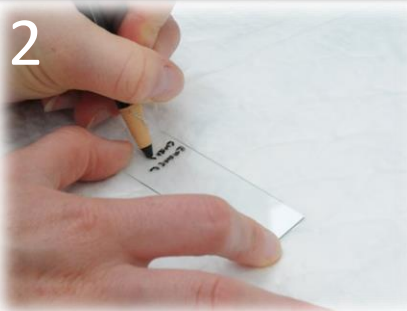
## Tape Strip

1



Before taking a tape strip, it is important to have all the equipment ready (see list on previous page).

2



Place the slide on the incontinence sheet or paper towel and label it with the patient's details and date (in this case use, your name, surname and today's date) using a wax marker crayon.

3



Cut a length of sellotape slightly longer than the slide (approximately 10-12).

4



It can be helpful to attach the tape to the slide prior to sampling.  
It is very important not to get your fingerprints on the sticky side of the tape in the region that will be used to collect the sample.

5



Select an area on your own arm to be tested.

N.B. If you have any known allergies or previous reactions to adhesive tape, do not place the sellotape on your own arm. Instead, ask someone else if you could take the sample from their arm. You should also wear gloves for this step.

6



In a live patient, separate the hair to gain good access to the skin below.

# Clinical Skills:

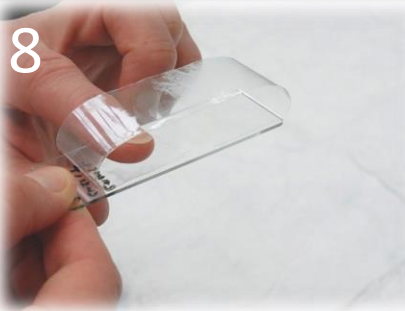
## Tape Strip

7



Press the sellotape firmly onto the area to be sampled and repeat several times (in the same place) to ensure sufficient cells are collected.

8



Fold the tape over the slide with the sticky side facing outwards ready for staining. Stick the free end of the tape to the end of the slide.

9



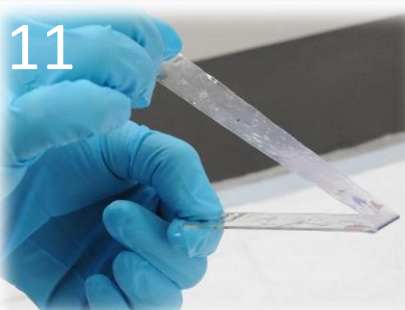
Put on gloves and then perform a standard Diff-Quik stain (see 'CSL\_L06 Diff-Quik Staining' booklet for the Diff-Quik technique).

10



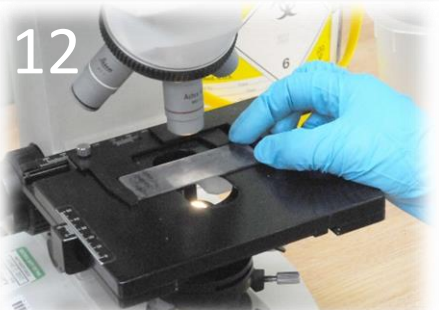
Rinse the slide under the tap; run water over the back of slide initially to remove excess stain. It may be necessary to turn the slide on its side to remove stain from between the sellotape and the slide.

11



The tape is now mounted sticky side down on the slide (and the excess tape can be cut off or folded over on the other side). It does not matter if there is some water under the sellotape when stuck to the slide.

12



The slide is now ready to examine under the microscope initially with low power to find an area of interest and then with an oil immersion lens to look for cells, bacteria and yeast. When examining the slide, place oil immersion on the side of the slide with the sellotape.

# Resetting the station:

## Tape Strip

1. Please dispose of used microscope slides, coverslips and blades in a sharps container
2. Close the Diff-Quik pots securely
3. Leave the workstation clean and tidy
4. Anything contaminated with stain etc. (e.g. tissue, paper towel, etc.) must also be disposed of in a clinical waste bin

*Station ready for the next person:*

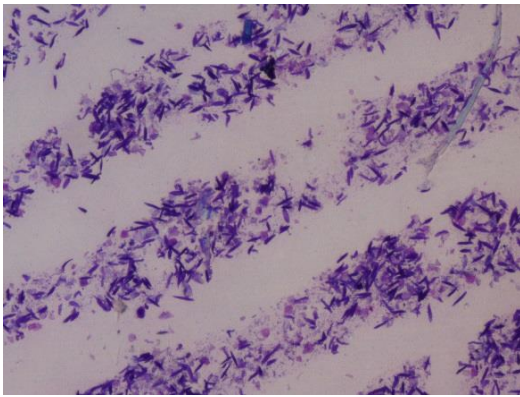


Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

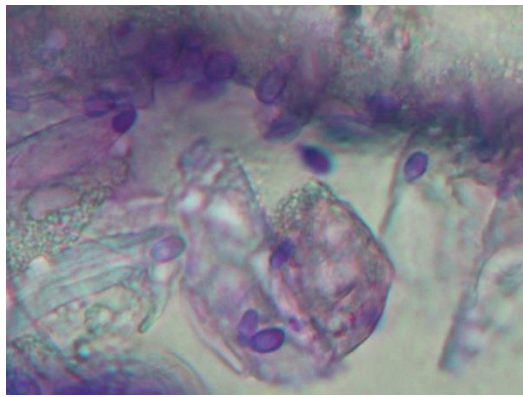


# I wish I'd known: Tape Strip

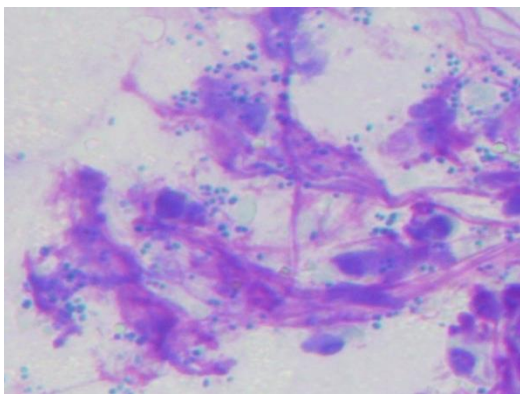
- It is important not to get your finger prints on the part of the tape strip used to collect the sample, especially if you are not wearing gloves.
- What am I looking for? Some examples of tape strip findings:



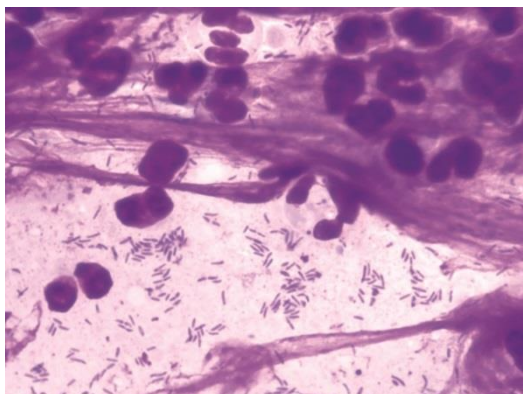
Finger prints on a tape strip



Malassezia on top of skin cells



Cocci and neutrophils from a  
dog



Rods and neutrophils from a  
dog's ear