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.