DIRECT IMPRESSION

How to:

- Use the edge of the slide at a 30-45 degree angle to disrupt the top layer of skin, get under a crust, open a pustule, dislodge scale, etc.
- Firmly press/smear material onto the slide.

When:

- Moist, greasy or exudative lesions.
- Most common technique for removing crusts or sampling papules and pustules.

Pro tips:

- You get more intact cells the gentler you are. However, you want to be fim enough to obtain a significant sample.
- Can be done at interdigital spaces by using your finger on the opposite side of the interdigital webbing and pushing up to make skin more accessible.
- Can open pustules with a needle as alternative and then press slide on exudate.

Allow collected material to dry on the slide.

Exudative samples can be heat fixed by using a hair dryer on low-heat or lighter on the side of the slide lacking sample. Wipe off soot if a lighter is used.

Modified Wright stain (Diff-Quik) is most often used since it is quick and easy.

Three stains:

- Fixative: methanol
- Solution I: cytosplasmic, eosinophilic, red/pink
- Solution II: nuclear, basophilic, blue/purple

How to stain the slide:

- Dip slide in each solution 5-8 times
- Allow excess solution to drain into jar and touch end of slide on paper towel to take away excess - prevents dilution of next solution
- After solution II, dip in distilled water or rinse under tap water (side with no sample exposed to stream)
- Air dry, use hair dryer (low heat) or blot in bibulous paper

For more information visit thedermvet.com

Written by: Dr. Ashley Bourgeois, DVM Dipolamate ACVD

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QUICK CLINIC REFERENCE FOR MOST COMMON SKIN CYTOLOGY METHODS

DOUXO S3®

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What are you looking for?

INFECTION
- *Bacteria*
- *Yeast*
- *Fungal spores*

INFLAMMATION
- *Neutrophils: infection, inflammation*
- *Eosinophils: hypersensitivity, parasites*
- *Macrophages: infection, inflammation*

ACANTHOLYTIC KERATINOCYTES
- *Suggestive of pemphigus*

NEOPLASTIC CELLS

What do you need?

SLIDES
- *+/- coverslip (if preserving slide long term)*
- *+/- tape*

DIFF-QUIK STAIN

MICROSCOPE

IMMERSION OIL

CONFIDENCE!
Remember, practice makes perfect like anything else!

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TAPE PREP

How to:
- Tear strip of tape slightly shorter than length of slide.
- Firmly press sticky side of tape to skin surface repeatedly.
- Two different ways to stain:
  1. Place tape adhesive side down onto slide. Lift edge of tape and apply a drop of final Diff-Quik stain (purple) to the slide.
  2. Stain the tape in the red and purple stain. Place on a microscope slide for evaluation.
     **Note: You do not need to use fixative. This will remove the sticky portion of tape and your sample.*

When:
- Collecting skin surface debris at tricky spaces like lip margins, nail beds and interdigital spaces. Dry, scaly lesions.

Pro tips:
- Use clear acetate tape or packing tape. You will get more background debris so get comfortable with normal amounts!

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