

Using transparent adhesive tape to prevent cross infection during contact dermoscopy

Sir,

Contact dermoscopy may be associated with cross infection.^[1] Some newer dermoscopes like the Dermlite DL4™ come with a disposable snap-on IceCap™ system that helps to prevent cross infection. However, these are expensive and need to be replaced regularly.^[2] Another method described to prevent cross infection is the use of polyvinyl chloride food wrap placed on the lens surface with mineral oil on both sides. This technique is cumbersome and the double layer of mineral oil may interfere with the quality of the image. Moreover, good quality polyvinylchloride film is not easily available.^[3]

We perform contact dermoscopy for potentially infectious conditions after applying the contact fluid (usually alcohol gel), and then covering it with a single layer of wide, transparent adhesive tape [Figure 1]. The tape prevents direct contact with the dermoscope. This reduces the risk of cross infection and ensures that the contact fluid is locked in over the lesion of interest. One of the practical problems encountered with this method is that the adhesive tape does not stick well to the skin, especially when there is associated oozing. However, this is not a hindrance if a wide piece of tape is used.

As long as the tape is completely clear and transparent, there are no issues with image distortion and quality [Figure 2]. Using a transparent adhesive tape is a handy, simple, and cost-effective way to prevent cross infection with contact dermoscopy. It also helps to allay patient fears regarding cross infection.

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Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

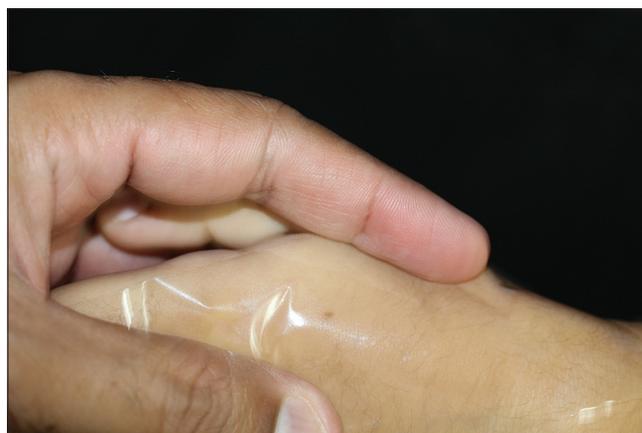


Figure 1: Application of wide transparent adhesive tape over the lesion after applying contact fluid

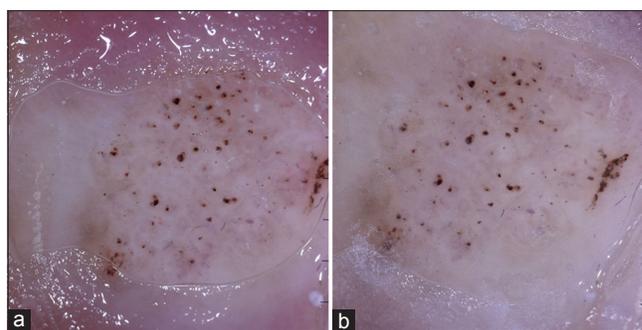


Figure 2: Comparison of dermoscopy images of verruca vulgaris (a) without adhesive tape and (b) with adhesive tape

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