



First, the lesion is cleaned by 70% alcohol to remove the contaminating molds.



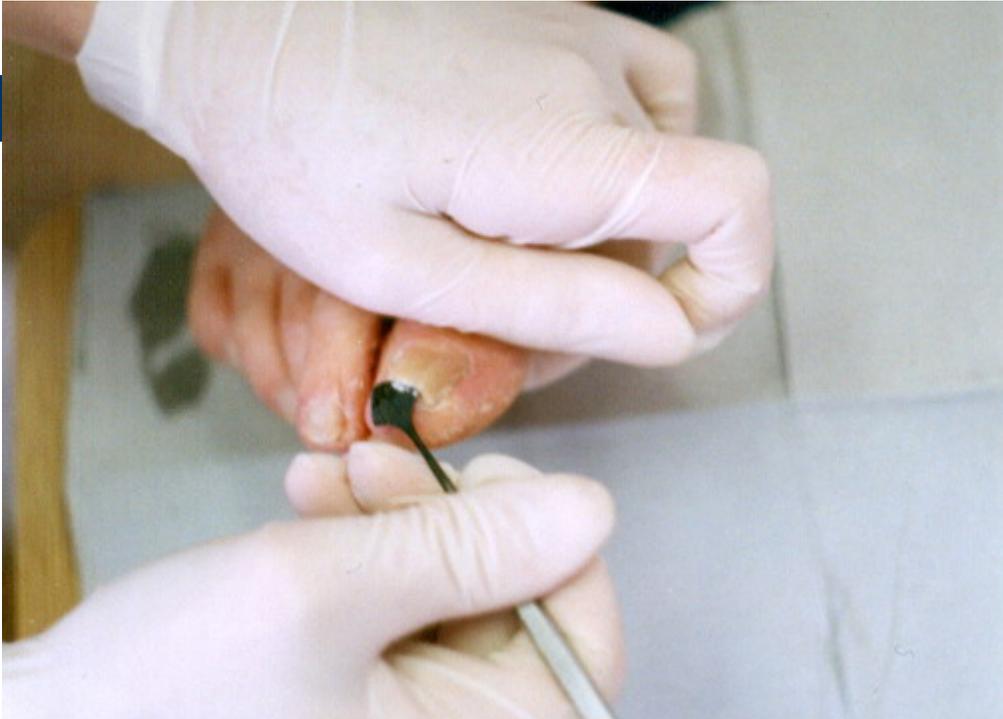


Scales are scraped from the active margin of the lesion.



A fairly large amount of material is required for proper examination.





In onychomycosis, the scrapings are taken from under the nail plate.





The material can be inoculated directly onto the cultivation medium to enhance the yield of positive cultures.





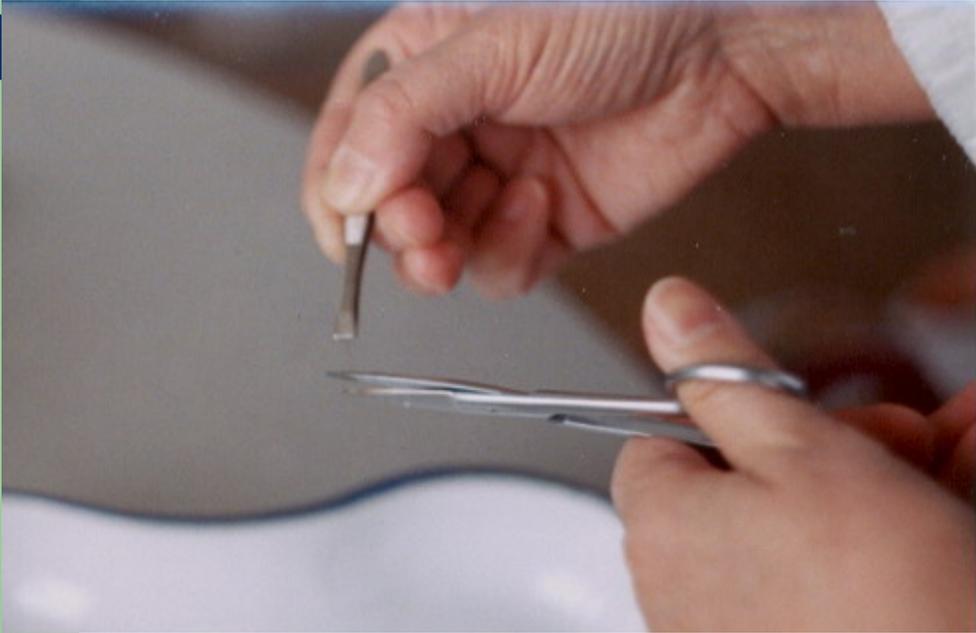
Smears are taken from mucosae or oozing lesions. The material is then inoculated directly on the medium.





For the diagnosis of tinea capitis, stumps of broken hair are of crucial importance. About 5 hair stumps are pulled out with an epilation forceps. Mycotic hairs are loosened and can be pulled out painlessly.





Only the lowest part of the hair (about 1 cm) is suitable for diagnosis. The rest is cut off.



