

Skin Taping: A New Frontier in Sample Collection

A Non-Invasive Approach To Epidermal Sample Collection

Skin taping has gained popularity as a non-invasive approach to epidermal research as it offers many of the same benefits of collected skin biopsies, but without the discomfort associated with the procedure. Sanguine utilizes skin taping procedures in conjunction with our direct-to-patient model to collect skin samples directly within the patient home.

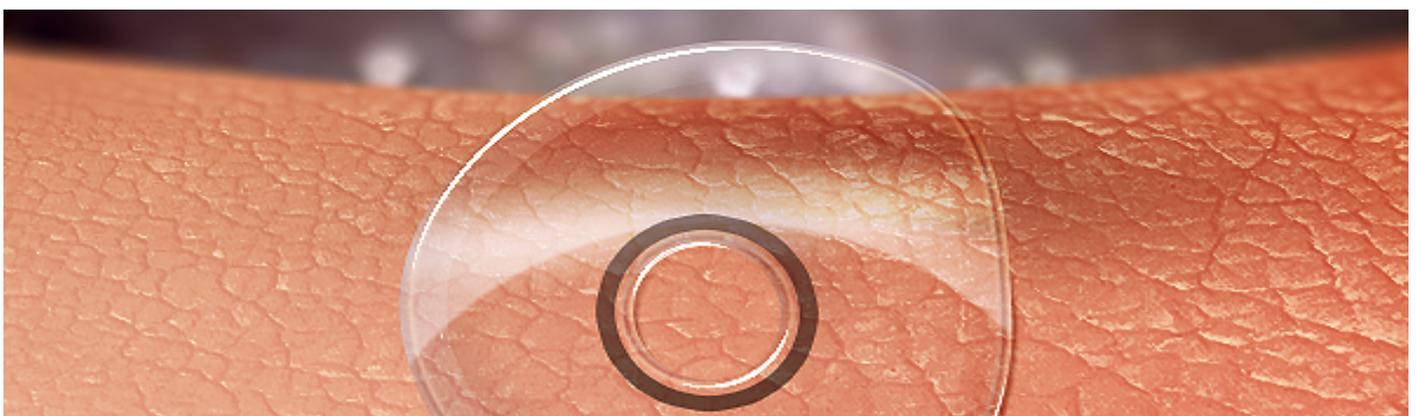
What Is Skin Taping: The use of tape strips, or discs, to collect and capture molecular components of a patient's epidermis.

What Can be Collected: Skin taping can be used to examine a variety of proteins found on the surface layer. While not every potential use of tape stripping has been explored, some common targets include AMPs, lipids, aquaporins, NMF, specific immune and barrier biomarkers, as well as components of the skin's microbiome

How Is It Analyzed: Tape samples can be analyzed through a variety of methods, all of which have not been fully identified, allowing the user to be creative. Some tried and verified approaches include colorimetric staining of proteins directly on the tape or the extraction of the tape's contents through buffering or disassociation techniques.

Why Skin Taping: Standardized diagnostic testing of inflammatory skin lesions or epidermal abnormalities currently relies on dermato-histopathology. While robust, this approach requires an invasive skin biopsy from the patient as well highly trained medical professionals to both collect and examine the sample. Due to the nature of this process, it is almost impossible to administer outside of a clinical setting and will generally cause pain to the patient, resulting in lower probability of re-collection.

Skin taping is a very simple procedure that can be administered by a standard, trained phlebotomist and does not cause the patient any discomfort after collection. While the collected material from skin taping may not be as thorough as that of a complete biopsy, findings have suggested that tape strips offer much of the same insights as that of a physical piece of the epidermis. In fact, there is published evidence exploring tape strips as a reliable process in the diagnosing and study of patients with lupus erythematosus and psoriatic inflammation, respectively. Additionally, due to its pain-free approach, skin taping is ideal for the study of pediatric patients across a variety of therapeutic areas.



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