



DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

WOOD'S LAMP EXAMINATION

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WHEN DO I DO IT?

- In every patient with possible *Microsporum canis* infection (inflammatory and non-inflammatory alopecia)

WHAT CAN I FIND?

- Fluorescing hairshafts

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Wood's lamp

HOW DO I DO IT?

- Illuminate the affected area in a darkened room. In 50 - 60% of *Microsporum canis* infections there will be greenish fluorescence which runs along the hair shafts.
- In the case of negative results → perform a fungal culture using the McKenzie toothbrush technique (see: Fungal Culture, Tip).
- Pluck hairs with fluorescence along hair shafts and use them for trichoscopy and/or fungal culture.
- Cultures can be done in the clinic using a commercial DTM tube or plate or sent to an outside laboratory for culture.

WOOD'S LAMP PROCEDURE VIDEO: ExcellenceInDermatology.com → [Education Library](#) → [Videos](#)

TECHNIQUE IMAGES : WOOD'S LAMP EXAMINATION



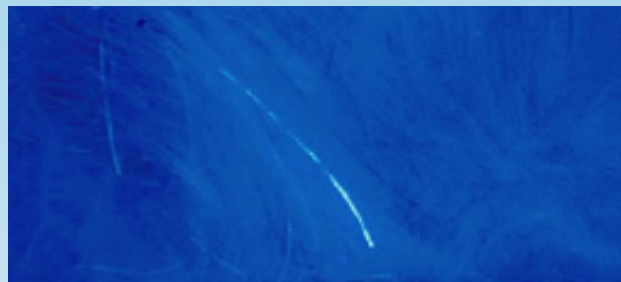
Wood's Lamp (Courtesy: S. Peters)



Positive fluorescence in feline dermatophytosis (Courtesy: S. Peters)



Positive fluorescence in feline dermatophytosis (Courtesy: S. Peters)



Microsporum canis: fluorescence running along hair shaft (Courtesy: Teton New Media)

TIP

- Drugs, soaps and bacteria (*Pseudomonas sp.*) or occasional individual scales can fluoresce as well, but they should not be associated with the hair shafts
- Be careful: A lack of fluorescent areas does not rule out dermatophytosis