

Novel use of a dermoscope to view histopathology slides



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A dermoscope is a noninvasive diagnostic tool that visualizes subtle clinical patterns of skin lesions and subsurface skin structures that are not normally visible to the naked eye.¹ This office procedure has revolutionized the field of dermatology by increasing the diagnostic accuracy of clinicians and decreasing the need for obtaining a skin biopsy specimen for diagnosis. Histopathologic study remains the gold standard for diagnosis of most skin diseases. We describe an innovative use of a dermoscope to view histopathology slides.

TECHNIQUE

A clean, air-dried, stained glass slide with fixed coverslip is placed on a white paper. A video dermoscope with image capturing ability is placed over the stained section in polarized mode. The dermoscope is then adjusted to the highest magnification and images are captured. The use of a fixed wooden platform helps in better focusing and makes the technique easier (Fig 1). This technique gives insight into pathogenesis and helps in clinico-dermoscopic-pathologic correlation (Fig 2).



Fig 1. Video dermoscope placed over a stained slide on a white background under polarized mode.

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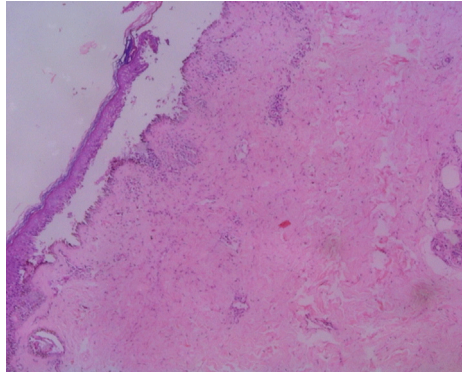


Fig 2. Suprabasal split with a row of tombstone appearance. (Original magnification, $\times 200$; videodermoscope polarized mode.)

Dermoscopes are portable devices, occupy less space, are easy tools for photomicrography, and have dual use, which is cost effective. The inability to identify cell morphology remains a limitation of this technique. This method cannot replace light microscopes but can be helpful to clinicians for bedside histopathologic examination.

REFERENCE

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