



Ova & Parasitology

Test Description

A stool sample is collected in a sterile, dry container and submitted to the laboratory. A small portion of the specimen is suspended in Lugol's iodine and microscopically observed for the presence of parasitic organisms. Organisms are presumptively identified by visualizing and evaluating measurements, internal structures, and morphological characteristics of suspect material. Recovery of parasites from a single stool sample can be as low as 50-60%; however, that percentage increases to >95% if 3 samples are submitted for examination.¹

Specimen Collection/Transport conditions

- Stool sample
 - Temperature: Refrigerated (2-8 °C)
 - Specimen Submission: Specimen must be received as soon as possible after collection
 - Container: Sterile specimen container

Laboratory Unit

Bacteriology

Methodology

Wet mount microscopy

Acceptable Specimen Type(s)

Stool sample

¹ Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11th edition. 2015. Chapter 133. p. 2294.



ALLEGHENY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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Test Request

Coming Soon

Possible Results:

- Present
- Absent

Reference Range

Absent

Rejection Criteria

- Unreadable/missing/insufficient labeling
- Wrong specimen collection kit
- Expired specimen collection kit
- Storage/transportation requirements not met
- Leaking or contaminated specimen transport container
- Quantity not sufficient
- Specimen too old
 - Collected it in acceptable kit but did not submit within appropriate time window
- Improperly collected specimen **Note:** certain substances and medications (e.g., barium, mineral oil, bismuth, antibiotics, antimalarial agents, absorbed anti-diarrheals, etc.) obscure ova and parasites making samples unacceptable for testing.
- Specimen not inoculated/ no specimen submitted

Result Reported

2-14 days

LOINC Code(s)

5842-0