



Ova and Parasite, Travel History or Immunocompromised, Feces

Test ID: OPE

Useful for:

Detecting and identifying parasitic protozoa and eggs and larvae of parasitic helminths in stool specimens.

Note: This test should be ordered when suspicion of parasitic infection is based on travel history in endemic areas or when a patient is immunocompromised.

Methods:

Microscopic

Reference Values:

Negative

If positive, organism identified

Specimen Requirements:

Patient Preparation: Specimen collection should be delayed for 7 to 10 days after administration of barium, bismuth, kaolin, magnesia, castor oil or mineral oil, and 2 to 3 weeks after antibiotics have been given since these may interfere with identification of protozoa.

Specimen Type: Feces

Supplies: ECOFIX Stool Transport Vial (Kit) (T219) or ECOFIX Stool Transport Medium only (T790)

Acceptable: 10% Buffered Formalin Stool Transport plus Zinc Polyvinyl Alcohol (Zn PVA) Stool Transport (one of each)

Specimen Volume: Portion of stool: 2 g or 2 mL

Collection

Instructions:

1. Follow instructions on the container as follows:
 - a. Place specimen into Ecofix preservative vial or one 10% formalin AND one Zn PVA preservative vial within 30 minutes of passage or collection. Refer to the fill line on the preservative vial. Do not fill above the line indicated on the container.
 - b. Mix the contents of the tube with the spoon, twist the cap to close tightly, and shake vigorously until the contents are well mixed.

Additional Information:

1. Stool placed in 10% buffered formalin can be accepted if accompanied by Zn PVA-preserved specimen; **10% buffered formalin-preserved specimens submitted without an accompanying Zn PVA-preserved specimen will be canceled.**
2. Specimen submitted in low viscosity (LV)-PVA, mercury PVA or copper (Cu)-PVA **will be rejected.**

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Fecal	Ambient (preferred)	21 days
	Refrigerated	21 days

Cautions:

- For optimal results, the specific test should be ordered for detection of *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, microsporidia, *Cyclospora*, or pinworm. This test is not the optimal method for detecting these parasites. See Ordering Guidance.
- Parasitic examination of a minimum of 3 stool specimens is indicated for detecting most intestinal protozoa and helminths with maximum sensitivity.
- Parasitic infections are uncommonly acquired in the hospital setting. This test is not usually useful in patients hospitalized for more than 3 days.

CPT Code:

87177- Concentration (any type), for infectious agents

87209- Smear, primary source with interpretation; complex special stain (eg, trichrome, iron hematoxylin) for ova and parasites

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Saturday

Report Available: 3 to 6 days

Questions

Contact Dunisha Messmer, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.