Test Definition: PARID
Parasite Identification

Overview

Useful For
Gross identification of parasites (eg, worms) and arthropods (eg, ticks, bed bugs, lice, mites)
Detecting or eliminating the suspicion of parasitic infection by identifying suspect material passed in stool or found on the body
Supporting the diagnosis of delusional parasitosis
Identifying ticks, including *Ixodes* species (the vector for Lyme disease)

Reflex Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test ID</th>
<th>Reporting Name</th>
<th>Available Separately</th>
<th>Always Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUG</td>
<td>Arthropod Identification</td>
<td>No, (Bill Only)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORMY</td>
<td>Parasite Identification</td>
<td>No, (Bill Only)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Testing Algorithm

When this test is ordered, 1 of the 2 reflex tests above will be performed and charged based on whether the object is an arthropod or worm. For parasite artifacts and nonhuman parasites, the reflex test performed will be based on whether the object most closely resembles a worm (eg, mucus strands, food material, fibers) or an arthropod (eg, ticks, mites, free-living insects).

See Parasitic Investigation of Stool Specimens Algorithm in Special Instructions.

Special Instructions

- Parasitic Investigation of Stool Specimens Algorithm

Method Name

BUG: Arthropod and Artifact Identification

WORMY: Gross and Microscopic Examination

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Varies

Necessary Information

1. Specimen source and isolate description are required: morphology, tests performed, location of specimen, or other pertinent information.
2. Indicate reason for request.

**Specimen Required**

**Specimen Type:** Parasitic worms, insects, or mites

**Container/Tube:** Sterile container (10% formalin or 70% alcohol may be added if appropriate specimen type)

**Specimen Volume:** Entire specimen

**Collection Instructions:**

1. For scabies, submit skin scrapings on glass microscope slide. Cover with a clean slide and use a rubber band to hold the 2 slides together. Place the slides in a clean, dry container for transport.

2. Submit whole worms and worm segments in 70% alcohol or formalin.

3. Submit arthropods (ticks, lice, nits, bed bugs, etc) in a clean, dry container.

**Forms**

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Gastroenterology and Hepatology Client Test Request](T728) with the specimen.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

See Specimen Required.

**Reject Due To**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hemolysis</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipemia</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icterus</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</table>

**Specimen Stability Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Ambient (preferred)</td>
<td>Refrigerated</td>
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</table>

**Clinical and Interpretive**

**Clinical Information**

Infectious diseases are spread and caused by a variety of macroscopic vectors. A wide array of macroscopic parasites (worms and ectoparasites) and parasite mimics or artifacts may be submitted for examination and identification. It is important to promptly and accurately identify these specimens so that the ordering physician can appropriately treat and counsel the patient.

**Reference Values**
A descriptive report is provided.

**Interpretation**

A descriptive report is provided identifying the worm or arthropod. Worms and hard ticks are identified to the species level when possible, while other parasitic arthropods are identified to the genus level.

Arthropods that do not cause human disease and parasite mimics resembling worms are reported as nonparasites or free living insects.

**Cautions**

This test identifies a tick's species, age, sex, and level of engorgement. It does not include analysis of ticks for the presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease. Testing ticks for potential pathogens such as *B burgdorferi* is not recommended since it does not indicate if the organism has been passed to the host during feeding. Instead, morphologic features of the submitted tick including the gender and degree of engorgement are more useful for predicting the risk of *B. burgdorferi* transmission. Only female ticks transmit *B burgdorferi*, and they must be attached for 36 hours or more for transmission to occur. The latter is reflected by the degree of tick engorgement. Ticks that are not engorged with blood pose little risk for Lyme disease.

**Clinical Reference**


**Performance**

**Method Description**

The submitted organism or material is examined macroscopically and microscopically, as appropriate for the specimen. Organisms are identified to the species level when possible. (Garcia LS: Diagnostic Medical Parasitology, Fifth Edition. Washington, DC, ASM Press, 2007)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**

Monday through Friday

**Analytic Time**

1 day

**Maximum Laboratory Time**

4 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

1 week

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

**Fees and Codes**

**Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
• Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
• Prospective clients should contact their Regional Manager. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test uses a standard method. Its performance characteristics were determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. This test has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information
87168-Arthropod (if appropriate)
87169-Parasite (if appropriate)

LOINC® Information

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<tr>
<th>Test ID</th>
<th>Test Order Name</th>
<th>Order LOINC Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARID</td>
<td>Parasite Identification</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result ID</th>
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<th>Result LOINC Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Parasite Identification</td>
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