

Overview

Useful For

Detection of the eggs of *Enterobius vermicularis* on the skin of the perianal folds

Special Instructions

- [Pinworm Collection Instructions](#)

Method Name

Microscopic

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Varies

Specimen Required

Supplies: Swubes (T300)

Specimen Type: Perianal

Container/Tube: SWUBEdisposable paddle (Falcon) (T300) or similar method of collection

Specimen Volume: Entire specimen

Collection Instructions: See [Pinworm Collection Instructions](#) in Special Instructions.

Forms

[If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send 1 of the following forms with the specimen:](#)

-[Microbiology Test Request](#) (T244)

-[Gastroenterology and Hepatology Client Test Request](#) (T728)

Reject Due To

All specimens will be evaluated at Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Ambient (preferred)	7 days	
	Refrigerated	7 days	

Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information

Enterobius vermicularis (pinworms) are nematodes (roundworms) which are found worldwide in both temperate and tropical areas. The adults reside in the upper large intestine of humans and transmission is by the fecal-oral route. Adult females migrate to the perianal area, especially during the night, and deposit large numbers of eggs.

Pinworm infection is the most common helminth infection in the United States and is the most common in young school-age children of all social classes. Pinworms do not produce significant intestinal disease but can cause irritating pruritus in the perianal area. They have also been implicated in vulvovaginitis in pre-pubertal girls and possibly in urinary tract infections.

Several agents are effective in treating pinworm infection (pyrantel pamoate, mebendazole), and good personal hygiene will prevent transmission of the eggs.

Reference Values

Negative (reported as positive or negative)

Interpretation

Positive results are provided indicating the presence of eggs of *Enterobius vermicularis*.

Cautions

Although adult pinworms and eggs can occasionally be observed in stool specimens, examination of feces is not the optimum method for detecting those parasites.

Clinical Reference

Mahmoud AAF: Intestinal nematodes (roundworms). In Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. Fourth edition. Edited by GL Mandell, RG Douglas Jr, JE Bennett. New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1995, pp 2526-2530

Performance

Method Description

The disposable paddle is firmly pressed against right and left perianal folds first thing in the morning. The paddle is examined microscopically for the presence of pinworms and eggs. (*Enterobius vermicularis* [Pinworm] Detection by Swube or Scotch Tape Preparation. PROC 9177 version 001. Mayo Clinic Parasitology Laboratory. 2001)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed

Monday through Friday; Varies

Analytic Time

1 day

Maximum Laboratory Time

4 days

Specimen Retention Time

Until reported

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

87172

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
PINW	Pinworm Exam, Perianal	675-9

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
PINW	Pinworm Exam, Perianal	675-9