

Malabsorption Evaluation Panel, Feces

Test ID: MALP

Useful for:

Evaluation of patients with suspected malabsorption, as suggested by chronic diarrhea, unexplained weight loss, or nutritional deficiencies

Differentiation between causes of malabsorption, specifically inflammatory conditions, pancreatic insufficiency, and osmotic diarrhea

Detection of protein-losing enteropathy that may be associated with an underlying malabsorption

Profile Information:

Test ID	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
A1AF	Alpha-1-Antitrypsin, Random, F	Yes	Yes
CALPR	Calprotectin, F	Yes	Yes
ELASF	Pancreatic Elastase, F	Yes	Yes
UREDIF	Reducing Substance, F	Yes	Yes

Methods:

A1AF: Nephelometry

CALPR, ELASF: Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

UREDIF: Benedict's Copper Reduction Reaction

Reference Values:

ALPHA-1-ANTITRYPSIN, RANDOM:

< or =54 mg/dL

CALPROTECTIN:

<50.0 mcg/g (Normal)

50.0-120 mcg/g (Borderline)

>120 mcg/g (Abnormal)

Reference values apply to all ages.

PANCREATIC ELASTASE:

<100 mcg/g (Severe pancreatic insufficiency)

100-200 mcg/g (Moderate pancreatic insufficiency)

>200 mcg/g (Normal)

Reference values apply to all ages.

REDUCING SUBSTANCE:

Negative or trace

Specimen Requirements:

- Patient Preparation:**
1. No barium enemas may be used for 48 hours prior to collection.
 2. For 72 hours prior to collection:
 - Do **not** use laxatives, including mineral oil and castor oil
 - Do **not** eat synthetic fat substitutes such as Olestra.
 - Do **not** take fat-blocking nutritional supplements
- Supplies:**
- Malabsorption Panel Kit (T920)
 - Infectious Container, Wide Mouth (T429)
 - 2 Stool containers, Small (Random), 4 oz (T288)
- Container/Tube:** Stool container
- Specimen Volume:** 18 g split between 2 containers, each containing half of the specimen
- Minimum Volume:** 5 g
- Collection Instructions:**
1. Collect a fresh, random fecal specimen, no preservative.
 2. Split specimen between 2 small containers, each containing half of the specimen.
 3. Label one small container with the A1AF and UREDF sample collection labels. Label the other small container with the CALPR, ELASF sample collection label.
 4. Freeze immediately
- Additional Information:**
1. Specimen must be split prior to transport.
 2. Testing cannot be added to a previously collected specimen.
 3. Specimen cannot be collected from a diaper.

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Fecal	Frozen	7 days

Cautions:

Malabsorption can result from a variety of pathological conditions; for most individuals with malabsorption, appropriate evaluation includes blood and fecal testing in addition to clinical evaluation.

Due to the heterogeneous composition of fecal material, variability in results may be observed when patients are monitored over time.

CPT Code:

82103
83993
82653
84376

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Friday

Report Available: 4 to 6 days

Questions

Contact Amy Ennis, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.