

Lactoferrin, Feces

Test ID: LCTF

Useful for:

Evaluating patients suspected of having a gastrointestinal inflammatory process

Distinguishing inflammatory bowel disease from irritable bowel syndrome, when used in conjunction with other diagnostic modalities, including endoscopy, histology, and imaging

Methods:

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

Reference Values:

< or =4.4 mcg/g (Normal)

>4.4 mcg/g (Abnormal)

Reference values apply to all ages.

Specimen Requirements:

Supplies: Stool container, Small (Random), 4 oz (T288)

Container/Tube: Stool container

Specimen Volume: 5 g

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect a fresh random fecal specimen, no preservatives.
2. If specimen is sent refrigerate, send immediately after collection.
3. If specimen cannot be sent immediately, freeze specimen and send frozen.

Minimum Volume: 1 g

Additional Information:

1. Separate specimens must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered, with the exception of ELASF / Pancreatic Elastase, Feces and CALPR / Calprotectin, Feces. If only a single specimen is collected, it must be split prior to transport.
2. Testing cannot be added on to a previously collected specimen.

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Fecal	Frozen (preferred)	7 days
	Ambient	72 hours
	Refrigerated	72 hours

Cautions:

Elevations in fecal lactoferrin are not diagnostic for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and normal fecal lactoferrin concentrations do not exclude the possibility of IBD. Diagnosis of IBD should be based on clinical evaluation, endoscopy, histology, and imaging studies.

Elevations in fecal lactoferrin may be observed in other disease states associated with neutrophilic inflammation of the gastrointestinal system, including celiac disease, colorectal cancer, and gastrointestinal infections.

False decreased concentrations of fecal lactoferrin may be observed in patients with neutropenia or granulocytopenia.

Due to the lack of homogenous distribution of lactoferrin in fecal material, variability in results may be seen when patients are monitored over time, particularly in samples with high lactoferrin concentrations.

Bovine lactoferrin (found in dairy products) has a different molecular structure from human lactoferrin and is not detected in this assay. However, nursing infants and those taking human lactoferrin supplements may risk false-positive results.(5)

CPT Code:

83631

Day(s) Performed: Tuesday

Report Available: 3 to 8 days

Note:

The following referral test code(s) will become obsolete.

Test Name	Test ID	Referral Lab Code	Referral Lab
Lactoferrin, Fecal by ELISA	FLACF	0061164	ARUP Laboratories
Lactoferrin, Quantitative, Stool	FLACQ	17321	Quest Diagnostics

Questions

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