

Fecal Leukocytes, Feces

Test ID: LEU

Explanation:

This test will be made obsolete on the effective due to availability of LCTF/Lactoferrin, Feces test which is superior to the traditional fecal leukocyte microscopy-based examination. Unlike fecal leukocytes, fecal lactoferrin is a stable, neutrophil-derived protein that can be detected even if leukocytes degrade or there are delays in processing. Additionally, quantitative lactoferrin levels correlate with the degree of mucosal inflammation and can therefore help to differentiate inflammatory from non-inflammatory causes of diarrhea.

Recommended Alternative Test:

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: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">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: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.

Falsely 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

Questions

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