



TECHNICAL NOTICE

THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Calprotectin, Fecal

Effective Date: March 1, 2016

Performing Department: Immunology

Use: Calprotectin is a neutrophilic marker specific for inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract. This test can be used for the following clinical uses:

- Distinguish between patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Determine disease activity and risk of relapse in IBD while assessing the level of mucosal healing, select patients for endoscopy as well as monitoring the response to treatment
- Predict relapse in patients with IBD, allowing an objective marker to decide when to treat

Method: Quantitative Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

Concentration measured in ng/ml and converted to μg of CALPRO per gram of stool ($\mu\text{g/g}$)

Reference Range:

- 50 $\mu\text{g/g}$ or less: Normal
- 51-120 $\mu\text{g/g}$: Borderline elevated, test should be re-evaluated in 4-6 weeks
- 121 $\mu\text{g/g}$ or greater: Abnormal, suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

Note: *Fecal Calprotectin is an indicator of the presence of neutrophils in stool and is not specific for IBD. Other intestinal ailments including GI infections and colorectal cancer can result in elevated concentrations of calprotectin. The diagnosis of IBD cannot be established solely on the basis of a positive calprotectin result. Patients with IBD fluctuate between active and inactive stages of disease. Calprotectin results may also fluctuate. GI bleeding of as much as 100 mL per day will increase the fecal calprotectin concentration by only 15 $\mu\text{g/g}$*

Specimen Requirements and Collection:

Preferred Specimen: Feces with no media or preservatives

Specimen Collection: Transfer 5 g of feces to a clean plastic transport vial with no media or preservatives

Specimen Rejection: Specimens in media or preservatives

Requested Volume: 5 g **Minimum Volume:** 1 g

Stability: • 10 days refrigerated (2-8°C) • 1 year frozen (-20°C)

Storage/Transport: Refrigerated

Testing Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday

Reported: 1-3 business days

Order: Calprotectin, Fecal

SBMF Test Code: 45155

Mnemonic: CALPRO

CPT: 83993

Please direct comments or questions regarding this notice to Amobi M. Ezenekwe, M.D.

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