

LAB #:
PATIENT:
ID:
SEX:
AGE:
CLIENT#: 24510

Comprehensive Stool Analysis / Parasitology x2

BACTERIOLOGY CULTURE

Expected/Beneficial flora	Commensal (Imbalanced) flora	Dysbiotic flora
4+ Bacteroides fragilis group 4+ Bifidobacterium spp. 4+ Escherichia coli 4+ Lactobacillus spp. 4+ Enterococcus spp. 2+ Clostridium spp. NG = No Growth	1+ Alpha hemolytic strep	4+ Klebsiella pneumoniae ssp pneumoniae

BACTERIA INFORMATION

Expected /Beneficial bacteria make up a significant portion of the total microflora in a healthy & balanced GI tract. These beneficial bacteria have many health-protecting effects in the GI tract including manufacturing vitamins, fermenting fibers, digesting proteins and carbohydrates, and propagating anti-tumor and anti-inflammatory factors.

Clostridia are prevalent flora in a healthy intestine. Clostridium spp. should be considered in the context of balance with other expected/beneficial flora. Absence of clostridia or over abundance relative to other expected/beneficial flora indicates bacterial imbalance. If *C. difficile* associated disease is suspected, a Comprehensive Clostridium culture or toxigenic *C. difficile* DNA test is recommended.

Commensal (Imbalanced) bacteria are usually neither pathogenic nor beneficial to the host GI tract. Imbalances can occur when there are insufficient levels of beneficial bacteria and increased levels of commensal bacteria. Certain commensal bacteria are reported as dysbiotic at higher levels.

Dysbiotic bacteria consist of known pathogenic bacteria and those that have the potential to cause disease in the GI tract. They can be present due to a number of factors including: consumption of contaminated water or food, exposure to chemicals that are toxic to beneficial bacteria; the use of antibiotics, oral contraceptives or other medications; poor fiber intake and high stress levels.

YEAST CULTURE

Normal flora	Dysbiotic flora
1+ Candida krusei 1+ Trichosporon inkin	

MICROSCOPIC YEAST

Result:	Expected:
Rare	None - Rare

The microscopic finding of yeast in the stool is helpful in identifying whether there is proliferation of yeast. Rare yeast may be normal; however, yeast observed in higher amounts (few, moderate, or many) is abnormal.

YEAST INFORMATION

Yeast normally can be found in small quantities in the skin, mouth, intestine and mucocutaneous junctions. Overgrowth of yeast can infect virtually every organ system, leading to an extensive array of clinical manifestations. Fungal diarrhea is associated with broad-spectrum antibiotics or alterations of the patient's immune status. Symptoms may include abdominal pain, cramping and irritation. When investigating the presence of yeast, disparity may exist between culturing and microscopic examination. Yeast are not uniformly dispersed throughout the stool, this may lead to undetectable or low levels of yeast identified by microscopy, despite a cultured amount of yeast. Conversely, microscopic examination may reveal a significant amount of yeast present, but no yeast cultured. Yeast does not always survive transit through the intestines rendering it unviable.

Comments:

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* *Aeromonas, Campylobacter, Plesiomonas, Salmonella, Shigella, Vibrio, Yersinia, & Edwardsiella tarda* have been specifically tested for and found absent unless reported.

v5.09



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PARASITOLOGY/MICROSCOPY *	
Sample 1	
Few	Blastocystis hominis
Sample 2	
Mod	Blastocystis hominis
Rare	Yeast
*A trichrome stain and concentrated iodine wet mount slide is read for each sample submitted.	

PARASITOLOGY INFORMATION

Intestinal parasites are abnormal inhabitants of the gastrointestinal tract that have the potential to cause damage to their host. The presence of any parasite within the intestine generally confirms that the patient has acquired the organism through fecal-oral contamination. Factors such as contaminated food and water supplies, day care centers, increased international travel, pets, carriers such as mosquitoes and fleas, and sexual transmission have contributed to an increased prevalence of intestinal parasites. It is estimated that close to one billion people worldwide are infected. Damage to the host includes parasitic burden, migration, blockage and pressure. Immunologic inflammation, hypersensitivity reactions and cytotoxicity also play a large role in the morbidity of these diseases. The infective dose often relates to severity of the disease and repeat encounters can be additive.

There are two main classes of intestinal parasites that can cause human intestinal disease. They include protozoa and helminths. The protozoa typically have two stages; the trophozoite stage that is the metabolically active, invasive stage and the cyst stage, which is the vegetative inactive form resistant to unfavorable environmental conditions outside the human host. Helminths are large, multicellular organisms that are generally visible to the naked eye in their adult stages. Like protozoa, helminths can be either free-living or parasitic in nature. In their adult form, helminths cannot multiply in humans.

In general, acute manifestations of parasitic infection may involve diarrhea with or without mucus and or blood, fever, nausea, or abdominal pain. However these symptoms do not always occur. Consequently, parasitic infections may not be diagnosed or eradicated. If left untreated, chronic parasitic infections can cause damage to the intestinal lining and can be an unsuspected cause of illness and fatigue. Chronic parasitic infections can also be associated with increased intestinal permeability, irritable bowel syndrome, irregular bowel movements, malabsorption, gastritis or indigestion, skin disorders, joint pain, allergic reactions, and decreased immune function.

In some instances, parasites may enter the circulation and travel to various organs causing severe organ diseases such as liver abscesses and cysticercosis. In addition, some larval migration can cause pneumonia and in rare cases hyper infection syndrome with large numbers of larvae being produced and found in every tissue of the body.

GIARDIA/CRYPTOSPORIDIUM IMMUNOASSAY			
	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Giardia lamblia	Neg		Neg
Cryptosporidium	Neg		Neg

Giardia lamblia is flagellated protozoan that infects the small intestine and is passed in stool and spread by the fecal-oral route. Waterborne transmission is the major source of giardiasis.

Cryptosporidium is a coccidian protozoa that can be spread from direct person-to-person contact or waterborne transmission.

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DIGESTION / ABSORPTION

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Elastase	457		> 200 µg/mL
Fat Stain	None		None - Mod
Muscle fibers	None		None - Rare
Vegetable fibers	Rare		None - Few
Carbohydrates	Neg		Neg

Elastase findings can be used for the diagnosis or the exclusion of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Correlations between low levels and chronic pancreatitis and cancer have been reported. **Fat Stain:** Microscopic determination of fecal fat using Sudan IV staining is a qualitative procedure utilized to assess fat absorption and to detect steatorrhea. **Muscle fibers** in the stool are an indicator of incomplete digestion. Bloating, flatulence, feelings of "fullness" may be associated with increase in muscle fibers. **Vegetable fibers** in the stool may be indicative of inadequate chewing, or eating "on the run". **Carbohydrates:** The presence of reducing substances in stool specimens can indicate carbohydrate malabsorption.

INFLAMMATION

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Lysozyme*	71		<= 600 ng/mL
Lactoferrin	< 0.5		< 7.3 µg/mL
White Blood Cells	None		None - Rare
Mucus	Neg		Neg

Lysozyme* is an enzyme secreted at the site of inflammation in the GI tract and elevated levels have been identified in IBD patients. **Lactoferrin** is a quantitative GI specific marker of inflammation used to diagnose and differentiate IBD from IBS and to monitor patient inflammation levels during active and remission phases of IBD. **White Blood Cells (WBC):** in the stool are an indication of an inflammatory process resulting in the infiltration of leukocytes within the intestinal lumen. WBCs are often accompanied by mucus and blood in the stool. **Mucus** in the stool may result from prolonged mucosal irritation or in a response to parasympathetic excitability such as spastic constipation or mucous colitis.

IMMUNOLOGY

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Secretory IgA*		17.6	51 - 204mg/dL

Secretory IgA* (sIgA) is secreted by mucosal tissue and represents the first line of defense of the GI mucosa and is central to the normal function of the GI tract as an immune barrier. Elevated levels of sIgA have been associated with an upregulated immune response.

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SHORT CHAIN FATTY ACIDS

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
% Acetate	68		36 - 74 %
% Propionate	14		9 - 32 %
% Butyrate	14		9 - 39 %
% Valerate	3.3		1 - 8 %
Butyrate		0.46	0.8 - 3.8 mg/mL
Total SCFA's		3.2	4 - 14 mg/mL

Short chain fatty acids (SCFAs): SCFAs are the end product of the bacterial fermentation process of dietary fiber by beneficial flora in the gut and play an important role in the health of the GI as well as protecting against intestinal dysbiosis. Lactobacilli and bifidobacteria produce large amounts of short chain fatty acids, which decrease the pH of the intestines and therefore make the environment unsuitable for pathogens, including bacteria and yeast. Studies have shown that SCFAs have numerous implications in maintaining gut physiology. SCFAs decrease inflammation, stimulate healing, and contribute to normal cell metabolism and differentiation. Levels of **Butyrate** and **Total SCFA** in mg/mL are important for assessing overall SCFA production, and are reflective of beneficial flora levels and/or adequate fiber intake.

INTESTINAL HEALTH MARKERS

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Red Blood Cells	None		None - Rare
pH	6.2		6 - 7.8
Occult Blood	Neg		Neg

Red Blood Cells (RBC) in the stool may be associated with a parasitic or bacterial infection, or an inflammatory bowel condition such as ulcerative colitis. Colorectal cancer, anal fistulas, and hemorrhoids should also be ruled out.

pH: Fecal pH is largely dependent on the fermentation of fiber by the beneficial flora of the gut.

Occult blood: A positive occult blood indicates the presence of free hemoglobin found in the stool, which is released when red blood cells are lysed.

MACROSCOPIC APPEARANCE

	Appearance	Expected
Color	Brown	Brown
Consistency	Soft	Formed/Soft

Color: Stool is normally brown because of pigments formed by bacteria acting on bile introduced into the digestive system from the liver. While certain conditions can cause changes in stool color, many changes are harmless and are caused by pigments in foods or dietary supplements. **Consistency:** Stool normally contains about 75% water and ideally should be formed and soft. Stool consistency can vary based upon transit time and water absorption.

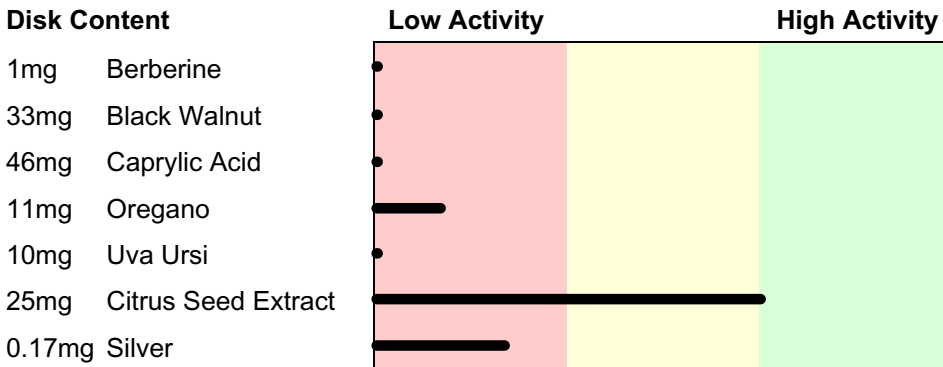


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Bacterial Susceptibilities: Klebsiella pneumoniae ssp pneumoniae

NATURAL ANTIBACTERIALS



Natural antibacterial agents may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed by using standardized techniques and filter paper disks impregnated with the listed agent. Relative activity is reported for each natural agent based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition or no growth zone surrounding the disk. Data based on over 5000 individual observations were used to relate the zone size to the activity level of the agent. A scale of relative activity is defined for the natural agents tested.

PRESCRIPTIVE AGENTS

	Resistant	Intermediate	Susceptible
Amoxicillin-Clavulanic Acid			S
Ampicillin	R		
Cefazolin			S
Ceftazidime			S
Ciprofloxacin			S
Trimeth-sulfa			S

Susceptible results imply that an infection due to the bacteria may be appropriately treated when the recommended dosage of the tested antimicrobial agent is used.
Intermediate results imply that response rates may be lower than for susceptible bacteria when the tested antimicrobial agent is used.
Resistant results imply that the bacteria will not be inhibited by normal dosage levels of the tested antimicrobial agent.

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Natural antibacterial agent susceptibility testing is intended for research use only.
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Yeast Susceptibilities: Trichosporon inkin

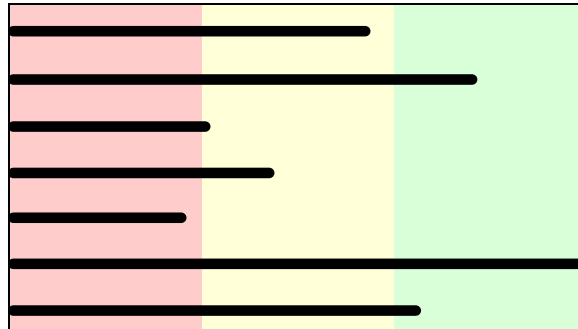
NATURAL ANTIFUNGALS

Disk Content

Low Activity

High Activity

1mg Berberine
 46mg Caprylic Acid
 10mg Uva Ursi
 2.5mg Tannic Acid
 11mg Oregano
 45mg Undecylenic Acid
 25mg Citrus Seed Extract



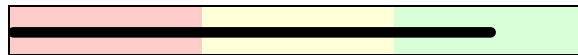
Natural antifungal agents may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed by using standardized techniques and filter paper disks impregnated with the listed agent. Relative activity is reported for each natural agent based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition or no growth zone surrounding the disk. Data based on over 5000 individual observations were used to relate the zone size to the activity level of the agent. A scale of relative activity is defined for the natural agents tested.

NON-ABSORBED ANTIFUNGALS

Nystatin

Low Activity

High Activity



Non-absorbed antifungals may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed using standardized commercially prepared disks impregnated with Nystatin. Relative activity is reported based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition or no growth zone surrounding the disk.

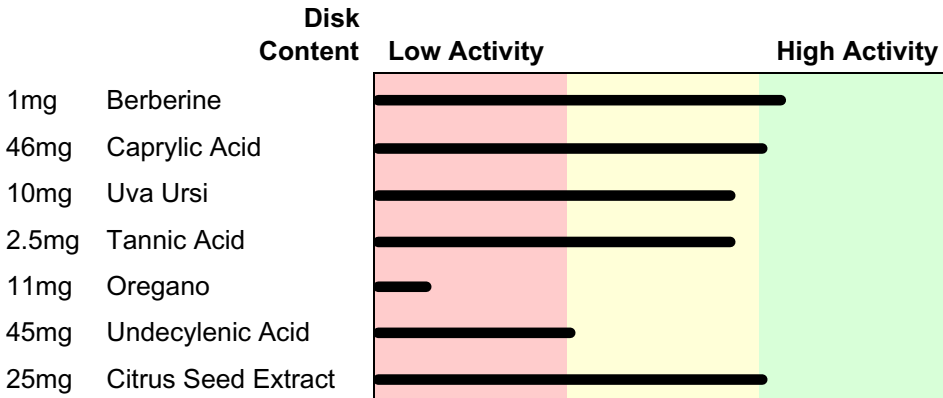
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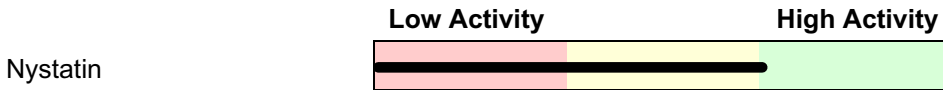
Yeast Susceptibilities: *Candida krusei*

NATURAL ANTIFUNGALS



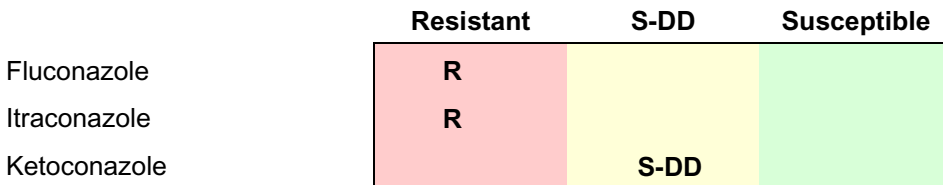
Natural antifungal agents may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed by using standardized techniques and filter paper disks impregnated with the listed agent. Relative activity is reported for each natural agent based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition or no growth zone surrounding the disk. Data based on over 5000 individual observations were used to relate the zone size to the activity level of the agent. A scale of relative activity is defined for the natural agents tested.

NON-ABSORBED ANTIFUNGALS



Non-absorbed antifungals may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed using standardized commercially prepared disks impregnated with Nystatin. Relative activity is reported based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition or no growth zone surrounding the disk.

AZOLE ANTIFUNGALS



Susceptible results imply that an infection due to the fungus may be appropriately treated when the recommended dosage of the tested antifungal agent is used.
Susceptible - Dose Dependent (S-DD) results imply that response rates may be lower than for susceptible fungi when the tested antifungal agent is used.
Resistant results imply that the fungus will not be inhibited by normal dosage levels of the tested antifungal agent.

Standardized test interpretive categories established for *Candida* spp. are used for all yeast isolates.

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