



## ROTAVIRUS

### What is Rotavirus?

Rotavirus is a (wheel-like shaped) virus that is a major cause of acute gastroenteritis, especially in children 4 to 24 months in age. The incubation period of rotavirus infection is usually one to four days, followed by gastroenteritis with an average duration of five to eight days. Virus titers in stool reach a maximum shortly after the onset of illness, then decline. Due to inadequacies in existing culture methods, human rotavirus is not routinely isolated from rotavirus-containing specimens. For many years, electron microscopy had been the standard method for rotavirus detection. Currently, newly introduced enzyme immunoassays and latex agglutination assays with increased sensitivities and specificities are the methods of choice.

### What testing is available for Rotavirus at ChildLab?

Stool, Rotavirus is the test available for rotavirus testing. It is a rapid *in vitro* qualitative immunoassay procedure for the detection of rotavirus antigen in human stool. The test can be used to aid in the diagnosis of rotavirus associated gastroenteritis.

### Specimen Handling

For optimal testing, specimens should be collected on days three through five of infection due to peak rotaviral particle counts being most reactive. Declining numbers of particles in samples after day eight or nine cause the test to be less reactive.

A urine and blood free stool specimen should be collected into a clean, dry container free of detergent residue, or obtained from a diaper.

**Please note, submitting diapers are unacceptable specimens!**

The specimen should be tested as soon as possible, but may be stored up to 72 hours in a refrigerator prior to testing. If testing cannot be performed within the 72 hour time frame, the specimen should be frozen in a frost-free freezer (-20°C or lower).

### How can ChildLab help you?

**ChildLab** offers Rotavirus screening 7 days a week with results reported within 1-3 days of specimen receipt. Specimen requirements are stool (Milk Dud size if formed or 1 tsp. if liquid) placed in a clean, dry, container free of detergent residue and refrigerated or frozen immediately after collection. (See Specimen Handling) For your convenience, **ChildLab** can provide stool collection containers.

### For More Information:

For questions regarding test availability, specimen requirements, or to order stool collection containers, please contact ChildLab Client Services at (614)722-5407 or (800)934-6575.