

CHILDLAB

Guide to Laboratory Services

GIARDIA/CRYPTOSPORIDIUM (GCR) ANTIGEN TEST (STOOL)

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Giardia lamblia and Cryptosporidium spp. are the two most commonly identified intestinal parasites in stool samples submitted to the Microbiology lab at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The GCR antigen test is more sensitive than a standard Ova and Parasite (O&P) exam for detection of these pathogens. Cryptosporidium cannot be detected by O&P. In addition the GCR antigen test does not require the presence of intact organisms for detection and thus multiple stool samples are not commonly required.

II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

- (1) A patient with no recent history of travel outside the U.S. and no previous GCR testing should have a single stool sample submitted for GCR antigen testing. Continuing symptoms with a single negative GCR test may warrant testing a second sample. A patient who is a recent immigrant or with a history of travel outside the U.S., or in a patient with continuing symptoms after screen testing by GCR should have an O&P exam. See Ova and Parasite Exam procedure.
- (2) All specimens collected in the home or physician office must be placed in a 10% Formalin fixative vial for GCR Exam. An O&P exam can also be performed on the Formalin vial (with the addition of a PVA vial). See O&P procedure.
- (3) Specimens are held one week after running the test in case a follow-up O&P exam is requested.
- (4) In addition to patient identification, the sample should be labeled with collection time, and consistency of the original specimen.