

CHILDLAB

Guide to Laboratory Services

PIN WORM EXAM

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The pinworm, Enterobius vermicularis, is a widely distributed intestinal parasite of man. Infection occurs by hand-to-mouth transmission of infective eggs from infected individual or contaminated fomites. Children are more commonly infected than adults, but it often becomes a family affair. Dogs and cats do NOT harbor pinworms. The ingested eggs hatch and development to adult pinworms occurs in the intestinal tract. Diagnosis is accomplished by collecting a sample from the skin at the patient's anus by using the Pinworm Examination collection device (the "swube" and then examining the paddle under a microscope for the presence of the adult worms or eggs; eggs are seldom found in feces. All materials needed to collect the specimen plus instructions are contained in a Pin Worm Collection kit available from ChildLab.

II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

- (1) Specimens should be collected at home by the parent.
- (2) Collect the sample first thing in the morning before the child goes to the bathroom or is bathed.
- (3) Complete the identification label in the collection kit with child's full name, date of birth, and date of collection. Attach the label to the plastic tube contained in the kit.
- (4) While still in bed, turn the child on his stomach and then have him bring his legs up so that he is kneeling while still resting his stomach on the bed.
- (5) Remove the sticky paddle attached to the cap of the plastic tube.
- (6) Spread the child's buttocks and press the sticky side of the paddle for a moment against the child's anus a few times at different locations.
- (7) Return the paddle to the tube and cap tightly.
- (8) Place the paddle in the plastic bag and seal.
- (9) Wash your hands thoroughly in soap and water.