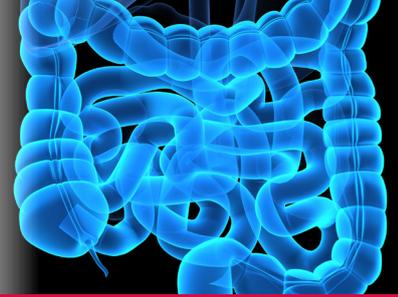


Faecal Calprotectin



A biomarker of bowel inflammation

INTRODUCTION

Calprotectin is a cytoplasmic protein released by activated neutrophils. Its biological function is to sequester calcium and zinc ions and deny them to pathogens. Calprotectin released by mucosal or luminal neutrophils may be measured in faecal specimens as an index of bowel inflammation. It has use for both generalists and specialists for the assessment of patients with suspected or known inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

ABOUT THE TEST

Calprotectin levels correlate with the degree of bowel inflammation. Calprotectin is stable in faeces and resistant to colonic bacterial degradation. Calprotectin is stable for at least 3 days at room temperature. Levels are measured by an immunochemical method after extraction from faeces. Infants and younger children have normally higher levels of faecal calprotectin compared to adults. Age appropriate reference ranges are supplied with test results.

INDICATIONS FOR ORDERING AND RESULTS

Measurement of faecal calprotectin permits non-invasive, inexpensive and rapid assessment of bowel inflammation. In a patient with suspected irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) a normal faecal calprotectin level is likely to exclude IBD (sensitivity >90%) and may dissuade against endoscopic examination in a low risk patient. In patients with known IBD serial faecal calprotectin levels may be useful for monitoring of induction of remission and monitoring for relapse.

LIMITATIONS

A faecal specimen is required; samples can remain stable for up to 72 hours. Measurement of serum calprotectin does not correlate with mucosal inflammation. Imprecision in calprotectin level measurement may arise from the extraction step due to possible faecal heterogeneity. Aspirin, NSAID and PPI therapy may increase faecal calprotectin levels non-specifically. Faecal calprotectin has a poor sensitivity for detection of colorectal carcinoma and coeliac disease, a normal level does not exclude these processes.

HOW TO ORDER

Request faecal or stool calprotectin level on a standard Tasmanian Medical Laboratories request form. The collection centres can provide faeces collection kits for your patient or clinic. Please note this is a self-collect for patients, so please ensure they receive all of the required information and understand the procedure required.

TURNAROUND TIME

Testing is offered daily (Mon-Fri) with results usually available within 3-4 working days.

COST

Currently there is no Medicare rebate for testing Faecal Calprotectin level and as such, Tasmanian Medical Laboratories will charge an out-of-pocket fee \$75.00*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please call Hobart (03) 6108 9900 or Launceston (03) 6711 2000

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REFERENCES

Ikhtaire S, Shajib M, et al. Faecal Calprotectin: Its scope and utility in the management of inflammatory bowel disease. *Journal of Gastroenterology* (2016) 51:334-346

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