



Investigation Corner

Diarrhea –Is it due to IBD

Calprotectin, Feces

USEFUL FOR

Evaluation of patients suspected of having a gastrointestinal inflammatory process

Calprotectin is a protein released by a type of white blood cell called a neutrophil. When there is inflammation in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, neutrophils move to the area and release calprotectin, resulting in an increased level in the stool. This test measures the level of calprotectin in stool as a way to detect inflammation in the intestines.

IBD is a group of chronic disorders characterized by inflamed and damaged tissues in the lining of the intestinal tract. The cause of IBD is not known, but these diseases are thought to be due to an autoimmune process that has been triggered by a genetic predisposition, a viral illness, and/or an environmental factor. The most common inflammatory bowel diseases are Crohn disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC)

A calprotectin test may be ordered to help determine whether an endoscopy is indicated if IBD is suspected

A calprotectin test may be ordered if a person with IBD has symptoms that suggest a flare-up, both to detect disease activity and to help evaluate its severity. For example, if a person has a moderately elevated calprotectin, then testing may be repeated several weeks later to see if it has stayed moderately elevated, increased, or returned to normal

SPECIMEN TYPE

Fecal

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect a fresh random fecal specimen, no preservative.
2. If specimen is sent refrigerate, send immediately after collection.
3. If specimen cannot be sent immediately, freeze and send frozen (preferred)

METHOD NAME

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)



*The Medical **Bulletin***

REFERENCE VALUES

< 50.0 mcg/g (Normal)

50.0-120 mcg/g (Borderline)

> 120 mcg/g (Abnormal)

Dr. Chandramowleswari