

Faecal Calprotectin Testing at SydPath

Calprotectin is a zinc binding protein primarily localised to the granules of neutrophils and the surface of monocytes and macrophages. When measured in faeces its excretion is highly correlated with radioisotopic measures of gastrointestinal inflammation, which are considered the gold standard test.

From 7/3/18, Faecal Calprotectin will be measured at SydPath using the Diasorin Liaison XL test method.

Indications

Estimation of faecal calprotectin levels is primarily indicated to help differentiate inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) from irritable bowel syndrome and other non-inflammatory disturbances of bowel function. It may also be useful in the monitoring IBD therapy and relapse prediction.

Sample collection

Patients should stop aspirin, NSAIDs and proton pump inhibitors for 2 weeks before sample collection as these may lead to false-positive results. As there can be considerable result variation, consideration should be given to collection of more than one sample on separate occasions.

Result Interpretation

In patients greater than 4 years of age values less than 50ug/g are considered normal. Values between 50-150ug/g are considered borderline. Values above 250ug/g are usually associated with active IBD but testing is less sensitive for ileocaecal Crohn's disease than ulcerative colitis. Sequential testing may be used to monitor response to therapy and disease relapse.

Disorders other than IBD that may lead to low positive results include infectious gastroenteritis, untreated coeliac disease, colorectal and gastric cancer, microscopic colitis, cystic fibrosis, diverticulitis, liver cirrhosis and untreated food allergy.

Additional Information

Availability: Test to be performed weekly on Thursdays.

Testing Fee: Faecal Calprotectin is currently a non-MBS test therefore patients should be advised that they will receive an out-of-pocket charge of **\$82.50**.

For further information on the testing of Faecal Calprotectin, please contact the Serology Laboratory on **(02) 8382 9173**.