

Helicobacter pylori Stool Antigen Test

NOW AVAILABLE in Ontario

Information for Healthcare Providers



The **Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) Stool Antigen Test** is used to diagnose an infection with **Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)**, the bacteria that can cause peptic ulcers. Testing detects an infection of the digestive tract which is essential in identifying the cause of symptoms and/or ulcers in the absence of other alarming features. It is a useful alternative to the **Urea Breath Test (UBT)**.

SENSITIVITY, SPECIFICITY AND PREDICTIVE VALUE

A systematic review of the stool antigen test in untreated patients with H. pylori demonstrated overall **sensitivity of 91%, specificity of 93%, and positive and negative predictive values of 92% and 87%**, respectively¹.

WHEN TO ORDER A STOOL ANTIGEN TEST FOR H. PYLORI

- Patient presents with **dyspepsia**
- Age of patient is **below 60 years** with no direct indication of endoscopy
- No **alarming features** present*
- **Urea Breadth Test (UBT)** is unavailable due to infection hazard related to the Covid-19 pandemic

*Alarming features include overt gastrointestinal bleeding (melena, hematemesis), unintentional weight loss, family history of gastric or esophageal cancer, palpable abdominal or epigastric mass, abnormal adenopathy, iron deficiency anemia, persistent vomiting, dysphagia, and odynophagia

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

If your patient has initiated ulcer therapy during the two-week period leading up to specimen collection, a false-negative result is possible. If that occurs, the patient should wait until two weeks after the treatment is completed to have the test redone on a new specimen. If an indeterminate result is reported, retesting with a new specimen will also be required.

BENEFITS OF CHOOSING LIFELABS FOR H. PYLORI TESTING

- LifeLabs now offers the H. pylori Stool Antigen Test as a safe and accurate alternative to UBT, allowing you to confidently diagnose H. pylori infection in dyspeptic patients without exposing them to unnecessary hazards during the Covid-19 pandemic
- As Canada's largest community lab, we are an industry leader in ensuring exceptional quality testing in our state-of-the-art facilities
- Competitive pricing and quick turnaround times allow you to get the important diagnostic information you need when you need it

HOW TO ORDER

The H. pylori Stool Antigen Test can be ordered by writing '**H. pylori Stool**' in the 'Other Tests' section of the standard Ontario MOH requisition. The patient must obtain a collection container and provide a stool sample at any of **LifeLabs Patient Service Centres**. Samples without a signed requisition by a physician or health care provider will not be accepted.

RESULTS REPORTING

The results of this test are reported as **H. pylori antigen detected, not detected, or indeterminate**. The presence of H. pylori is indicated as a positive result (antigen detected). A negative result (antigen not detected) typically indicates the absence of H. pylori, or possibly, an antigenic level below the immunoassay detection limit.

TEST TURNAROUND TIME

Results of the test will be available to the ordering physician within **8 days** of the specimen drop off.



For more information, please contact our Customer Care Centre at:

1-877-849-3637

References

1. Gisbert JP, Parajares JM. Stool antigen test for the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection: a systemic review. *Helicobacter* 2004; 9: 347-68.