

Stool Parasite Laboratory Testing Overview

Increased Cyclospora Activity and Recommended Testing

OVERVIEW

Several laboratory tests are available for the evaluation of intestinal parasitic infections. Given the recent increase in **Cyclospora cayetanensis** cases, it is important to understand the scope and limitations of the available diagnostic assays.

Proposed New In-House Order Name: Molecular Stool Parasite Panel (Giardia/Cryptosporidium/E. histolytica)

Detects: *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium* spp., and *Entamoeba histolytica*.

Metholodgy: Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

Orderable Test: LABCSPBP

Testing Location: onsite Microbiology Laboratory

Turnaround Time: 3 days

Note: *This assay is not a comprehensive molecular parasite panel. Additional intestinal parasites (e.g., Cyclospora cayetanensis) require separate testing when clinically indicated.*

Cyclospora Stain, Feces

Metholodgy: Stained Smear

Orderable Test: LABYCYISO

Testing Location: Mayo Reference Laboratory

Turnaround Time: 2 to 4 days - experiencing delayed TAT with high volumes

Note: *Detects Cyclospora cayetanensis oocysts by stained smear. Compared with PCR, the stain is less sensitive and may miss infections.*

A single negative stool specimen does not exclude the diagnosis in a patient with a high clinical suspicion. Multiple specimens collected on different days may improve diagnostic yield.

Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel

Metholodgy: Multiplex PCR)– detecting 22 bacterial, viral and parasitic pathogens

Orderable Test: Currently not directly orderable in IHIS.

Requests should be submitted through the Miscellaneous Send-Out Department. Please email sendouts_@osumc.edu for approval request and ordering instructions. Once approved, it will be sent to the Mayo Reference Laboratory.

Testing Location: Mayo Reference Laboratory

Turnaround Time: 1-2 days

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The following tests are send-out assays performed at Mayo Clinic and are available **Monday through Friday only**. Specimens received on weekends or holidays will be processed on the next available testing day:
 - Cyclospora Stain, Feces
 - Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel