

Stool For OVA & Parasite (O&P), Collection Instructions

Specimen Collection - SAF vial (**Yellow Cap / Clear Fluid**)

The patient should be cautioned against the use of antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication, or oily laxatives prior to collection of the specimen. Specimens should be delayed five to ten days after barium and at least two weeks after antibiotics are administered.

To assure recovery of parasitic elements, which are passed intermittently and in fluctuating numbers, **three specimens spaced a few days apart** must be examined.

1. The specimen is ideally passed into a bedpan, or a clean and dry container without being contaminated with urine. Alternatively, a large plastic bag or "saran wrap" may be placed over the toilet seat opening and the specimen passed into the bag.
2. An appropriate (i.e. bloody, mucoid, watery) area of stool should be selected and sampled with the collection spoons provided in the caps of the containers.
3. Sufficient stool is added to each container to bring the liquid level up to the "Fill to Here" line. This will result in approximately 5 ml of sample. To insure adequate sampling of a formed stool, material should be removed from the sides, ends, and middle of the bolus.
4. Agitate each specimen with the spoon along the sides of the container, tighten the cap and shake firmly to insure that the specimen is adequately mixed. When mixing is completed the specimen should appear homogenous.
5. Label the vial with pertinent patient information. Include the time and date of collection.