

Faecal Calprotectin

Description	<p>Calprotectin is a calcium-binding protein found in high concentration in neutrophils (60% of the total protein content of the cytosol). It is thought to have anti-microbial activity due to its chelating properties, which inhibit bacterial metalloproteases.</p> <p>During inflammatory processes in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, neutrophils are localised to area of inflammation. Calprotectin may be shed from neutrophils into the GI tract lumen and excreted in the faeces.</p> <p>Measurement of calprotectin in faeces correlates to well to ¹¹¹Indium-labelled leukocyte excretion and endoscopic findings but is much less invasive and expensive than these procedures.</p>
Indication	<p>Faecal calprotectin may measured in patients with GI tract symptoms to aid differentiation between irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and other organic GI disorders. It may also be measured in patients with known IBD to assess the disease status, monitor therapy and predict periods of inactivity associated with mucosal healing.</p>
Additional Info	<p>While CRP and ESR are non-specific markers of inflammation, faecal calprotectin is specific to GI tract inflammation.</p>
Concurrent Tests	N/A
Dietary Requirements	N/A.
Interpretation	<p>Faecal calprotectin < 50 µg/g - within normal limits Levels may be higher in children < 4 years of age</p> <p>A normal faecal calprotectin supports a diagnosis of IBS, whereas a raised calprotectin indicates that further investigations are warranted.</p> <p>Raised faecal calprotectin is found in GI tract inflammation. Causes of which include: inflammatory bowel disease, infection, polyps, gastritis, gastric ulcers, esophagitis, diverticulitis, gastric and colorectal malignancy and the use of NSAIDs.</p>
Collection Conditions	<p>Sample should be sent to the lab on the day of collection. If there is a delay in getting the sample to the lab, it should be frozen.</p>
Frequency of testing	As required.