

Faecal elastase	
<b>Description</b>	Pancreatic elastase enzyme detection is a test for exocrine pancreatic function. Stools must be formed; a watery sample is not suitable.
<b>Indication</b>	Non-invasive test to assess exocrine pancreatic function in cystic fibrosis and other pancreatic deficiencies such as chronic pancreatitis, diabetes, chronic IBD, gallstones and pancreatic cancer.
<b>Additional Info</b>	<p>Elastase is a pancreatic enzyme which breaks down connective tissue. During transit through the gut it does not undergo any significant degradation; therefore in faeces it represents a useful marker of pancreatic insufficiency. Caution should be applied in newborns as the enzyme is not fully developed.</p> <p>The test is not useful in identifying mild disease, since more than 98% of the exocrine pancreatic function is usually lost before symptoms and signs of fat malabsorption are manifest.</p>
<b>Concurrent Tests</b>	N/A
<b>Dietary Requirements</b>	N/A
<b>Interpretation</b>	<p>Reference ranges (<math>\mu\text{g/gstool}</math>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal &gt;200</li> <li>• Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency &lt;200.</li> </ul> <p>Values less than 200 suggest the need for enzyme replacement in exocrine pancreatic deficiency.</p> <p>The enzyme levels are very low or undetectable in cystic fibrosis.</p>
<b>Collection Conditions</b>	N/A
<b>Frequency of testing</b>	<p>Minimum retesting interval 6 months</p> <p>[ACB recommendations-National Minimum Re-testing Interval Project (2013)]</p>