

**Helicobacter Pylori Antigen**

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| **Synonyms** | |  |  |
| **Clinical Indication** | |  | *Helicobacter pylori*infection is the most common cause of gastritis, and is involved in gastric ulcer, duodenal ulcer and gastric adenocarcinoma. It is also the causative agent in a high percentage of dyspepsia cases. European guidelines for the management of dyspepsia recommend the use of a faecal antigen test for accurate diagnosis prior to the administration of eradication therapy.  Please give detailed clinical information |
| **Part of Profile / See Also** | |  | Detection of Helicobacter pylori antigen in faeces |
| **Request Form** | |  | Pathology manual request form or ICE request |
| **Availability / Frequency of Analysis** | |  | On request during normal working hours |
| **Turnaround Time** | |  | The test will be performed during routine working hours on weekdays |
| **Patient Preparation** | |  | Before testing faeces for helicobacter, it will be necessary to stop H2 receptor blockers, antibiotic therapy and proton pump inhibitors (PPI’s) for at least 2 weeks. |
| **Sample Requirements** | |  |  |
| **Specimen Type** |  | Faeces |
| **Volume** |  | A walnut sized portion should be submitted in a faeces container |
| **Container** |  | Sterile universal container with no additives  Samples should be transported to laboratory on the day of collection. If there is to be a delay in transport the sample must be stored at 2-8oC for a maximum of 2 days |
| **Reference Range & Units** | |  | Positive/Negative |
| **Interferences** | |  | The accuracy of SATs is lower when stool samples are unformed or watery. |
| **Interpretation & Clinical**  **Decision Value (if applicable)** | |  | A positive result indicates current infection with *H.pylori*  A negative result does not exclude the possibility of *H. pylori* infection  Test results should be interpreted by the clinician in conjunction with clinical findings and / or other diagnostic procedures |
| **References** | |  |  |
| **Test code** | |  | FHEL |
| **Lab Handling** | |  | Samples may be stored at -200C prior to testing |