

Stool Test for Ova and Parasite (O&P)

This test looks for parasites and their ova or eggs in the digestive tract by checking a sample of stool in a lab. A parasite lives on or inside another organism. Treatment will be based on the type of parasite that is found.

Parasites enter the body through the mouth or skin. Most people become infected by drinking water or eating food that has parasites. Most parasites are too small to be seen and cannot be tasted or smelled in water or food. Parasites may get into the body through the skin or enter from bites of infected insects.

Signs

The most common signs are:

- Diarrhea
- Bloody diarrhea
- Mucous in stool
- Abdominal pain or cramping
- Gas
- Nausea
- Headaches
- Fever

See your doctor as soon as you have signs. He or she may recommend that you have an O&P test to check for parasites.

O&P Test

You will need to collect _____ stool samples. Collect each sample from a different bowel movement over one or more days.

- You may be given a plastic tray to use in your toilet to collect your stool. If you do not get a tray, cover the toilet bowl with plastic wrap, like Saran. Loosely place the plastic wrap over the toilet bowl and hold it in place with the toilet seat so your stool does not get into the water of the toilet.

- **Do not** get urine, water or toilet paper in the stool sample.
- Put part of the stool sample in a clean container. Wash your hands.
- Follow these directions **if checked** (✓):
 - Put your sample into a special container with fluid. Keep the fluid away from children and pets and handle it carefully. **The fluid is a poison.**
 - Keep your sample in the container in the refrigerator until you can take it to the doctor's office or lab.
 - Take the sample to the doctor's office.
 - Take the sample to the lab at:

Your Care

If you have parasites, your treatment may include taking medicine and drinking large amounts of liquids to prevent dehydration.

How to Prevent Parasites

- Avoid food and water that may have parasites.
- Wash your hands often. Wash them before and after eating, and after using the toilet. This will help protect you and prevent the spread of parasites to others.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.