

Quest Helicobacter pylori Antigen, Feces Patient Preparation Instructions

This test is cleared for use with specimens from pediatric patients.

Patient Preparation

For initial diagnostic purposes no special patient preparation is required. Patients are not required to be off medications or to fast before this test.

While positive test results from patients taking agents such as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) and antimicrobials should be considered accurate, false negative results may be obtained. For this reason, physicians may suggest the patient go off medications for two weeks and repeat test if negative results are obtained.

Follow up Testing

To confirm eradication, testing should be done at least 4 weeks following the completion of treatment. However, a positive test result 7 days post therapy is indicative of treatment failure.

Limitations

There may be possible false-negative results associated with recent PPI use.

Clinical Significance

Colonization with H. pylori is associated with increased risk of patients developing gastritis, peptic ulcer disease, and gastric adenocarcinoma. Stool antigen testing provides a sensitive measure of infection including during and after treatment.