



PROCEDURE:	STOOL CULTURE
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Medical supplies

- Stool container (a sterile container can be used);
- Biohazard bag;
- Stability¹ :
 - 24 hours refrigerated 2 – 8 °C

Preparation

- 1) Do not take any laxatives or antibiotics for one week prior to collecting the stool, except on your doctor's recommendation. Do not perform rectal enemas one week prior to collecting the sample.

Collection

- 1) The stool must be on a dry and clean surface such as a bedpan, plastic bag, plastic surface (e.g., Saran wrap) or newspaper, depending on what is most convenient for you. The sample should not contain urine;
- 2) Open the container;
- 3) Take small portions on each side and in the middle of the stool by using the spatula provided in the container;
- 4) Take samples from areas of the stool which contains mucus or blood. A spoonful of sample is sufficient for analysis;
- 5) Close the container tightly;
- 6) Identify the container:
 - First and last name;
 - Date of birth and/or Medicare number;
 - Date and time of collection.
- 7) Return the container immediately to your physician or to the laboratory.

Note: A single sample is sufficient for a diagnosis. If three samples are requested, take three consecutive stool samples and

¹ Transport et conservation des spécimens dans le domaine de la biologie médicale, OPTMQ, third edition, 2003, p.41.