Faeces Collection (Micro, Culture & Parasites) Patient Guide

This test is used to detect bacteria, parasites, or other microorganisms in the bowel. Careful collection and prompt delivery of the sample are important to ensure accurate and reliable results.

Before you collect the sample

- You will be provided with a brown-top specimen jar by your doctor or the collection center
- Label the jar with your full name, date of birth, and the date and time of collection

How to collect the faeces sample

- Ensure that urine does NOT come into contact with the stool sample
- If required, pass urine into the toilet first and flush
- Place a clean container or use another barrier (for example, an ice-cream container) into the toilet bowl to catch the stool
- Using the scoop attached to the lid of the brown-top jar, collect an amount approximately the size of an unshelled walnut
- Place the sample into the jar and secure the lid tightly to prevent leakage (avoid cross-threading)

After collection — Storage and delivery

- Deliver the specimen to your nearest 4Cyte Pathology Collection Centre as soon as possible after collection
- If there is any delay in delivery, keep the sample refrigerated unless advised otherwise
- Do not freeze the sample

If something goes wrong

If the sample becomes contaminated with urine, the container leaks, or you are unsure whether the sample was collected correctly, please contact the collection center for advice before submitting the specimen.

After the test

Results will be sent to your referring doctor, who will discuss them with you.

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