

# Cryptosporidium

Test Code: C65008

## Clinical and Procedure

### Clinical Utility

This assay is only available as part of a panel and cannot be ordered individually.

The *Cryptosporidium* parasite causes disease in humans through ingestion of infectious oocysts in contaminated water or food, and by direct contact with fecal material from individuals or animals actively shedding oocysts. <sup>1,2</sup> Two species of *Cryptosporidium* cause disease in humans, *Cryptosporidium hominis* and *Cryptosporidium parvum*. *C. hominis* is more prevalent in the US, South America, Australia, and Africa, while *C. parvum* accounts for most cases in Europe. Along with *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* is the most common parasitic cause of diarrheal illness in the US and other developed nations. <sup>3</sup> In 2010, the incidence of *Cryptosporidium* in the US was 5.1 per 100,000. <sup>4</sup> The main symptom of *Cryptosporidium* infection is voluminous diarrhea lasting one to 14 days, often accompanied by abdominal cramps, fatigue, vomiting, fever, and malaise. Immunocompromised individuals can develop severe cases of *C. parvum* infection with profuse, cholera-like diarrhea. <sup>2</sup>

### References

1. Chako CZ, Tyler JW, Schultz LG, Chiguma L, Beernsten BT. Cryptosporidiosis in people: it's not just about the cows. *J Vet Intern Med*. 2010 Jan-Feb;24(1):37-43.
2. Yoder JS, Harrat C, Beach MJ, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cryptosporidiosis surveillance - United States, 2006-2008. *MMWR Surveill Summ*. 2010 Jun 11;59(6):1-14.
3. Pawlowski SW, Warren CA, Guerrant R. Diagnosis and treatment of acute or persistent diarrhea. *Gastroenterology*. 2009 May; 136(6):1874-86.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Vital signs: incidence and trends of infection with pathogens transmitted commonly through food--foodborne diseases active surveillance network, 10 U.S. sites, 1996-2010. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2011 Jun 10;60(22):749-55.

## Procedure

### Disclaimer

Specimens are approved for testing in New York only when indicated in the Specimen Information field above.

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