

Giardia lamblia

Test Code: G65008

Clinical and Procedure

Clinical Utility

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

Giardia lamblia (also known as *G. intestinalis* and *G. duodenalis*) is the most common intestinal parasite of humans identified in the United States. ¹ *Giardia* infection occurs following consumption of *Giardia* cysts through fecally contaminated water or food, or through person-person contact. *Giardia* is found worldwide and is commonly found in travelers to disease-endemic areas, children in day-care facilities and sexually active homosexual men, but it can also be found in the general population. ^{1,2} The overall prevalence of *Giardia* ranges from one to seven percent in industrialized countries, to five to 50 percent in developing countries. *Giardia* infection can result in acute self-limited diarrhea, or a chronic syndrome of diarrhea, abdominal cramps, malabsorption, and weight loss. ³

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. Navaneetham U, Giannella RA. Mechanisms of infectious diarrhea. *Nat Clin Pract Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2008 Nov;5(11):637-47.
3. Kappagoda S, Singh U, Blackburn BG. Antiparasitic therapy. *Mayo Clin Proc* . 2011 Jun;86(6):561-83.

Procedure

Disclaimer

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

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