Allina Health LABORATORY

NEW TEST
NOTIFICATION DATE: March 1, 2021
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 2, 2021

pH, STOOL
994/LAB994

QUICK REFERENCE

Effective March 2, 2021, the pH, stool, referred to LabCorp as a Miscellaneous send out (994/LAB994) will become available.

DETAILS

Test name:	pH, stool
Test number:	994
Excellian order number:	LAB994
Abbreviation:	MSO
Alternate names:	Fecal pH Stool pH
Useful for:	• Detect carbohydrate and fat malabsorption • Evaluate small intestinal disaccharidase deficiencies
Patient preparation information:	Barium procedures and laxatives should be avoided for one week prior to collection of the specimen
Specimen type:	Stool, random
Collection container:	Screw cap plastic container (non sterile)
	
Volume:	1 g
Minimum volume:	0.5 g
Transport container:	Screw cap plastic container (non sterile)
Transport and stability:	Ambient *(preferred)* – 14 days Refrigerated – 14 days Frozen – 14 days *Freeze/thaw cycles - stable x3*
Specimen retention time:	1 week
Reason for rejection:	• Specimen contaminated with urine

QUESTIONS: Contact your Allina Health Laboratory account representative, or our Client Services department

Telephone: 612-863-4678 • 800-281-4379
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www.allinahealth.org/allinahealthlaboratory

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Performing lab:	LabCorp (010991): R-NX
Days set up:	Daily
TAT:	2 - 5 days
Method:	Aqueous stool suspension measured with pH paper
Reference ranges:	0 - 6 months: 4.5 – 5.5 >6 months: 7.0 – 7.5
Clinical information:	Stool pH is dependent in part on fermentation of sugars. Colonic fermentation of normal amounts of carbohydrate sugars and production of fatty acids accounts for the normally slightly acidic pH. If disaccharide intolerance is suspect, simple tests may be performed. Slightly alkaline pH may occur in cases of secretory diarrhea without food intake, colitis, villous adenoma, and possibly with antibiotic usage (with resultant impaired colonic fermentation). A stool pH of <6 (measured by pH paper) is suggestive evidence of sugar malabsorption. Children and some adults notice that their stools have a sickly sweet smell as the result of volatile fatty acids and the presence of undigested lactose. Low stool pH also contributes to the excoriation of perianal skin which frequently accompanies the diarrhea. High fecal pH may be a risk factor for colorectal cancer. Intake of oat bran (75−100 g/day over a 14-day period) has been shown capable of reducing fecal pH by 0.4 units. There is evidence, however, that high fecal pH may be secondarily rather than primarily related to cancer risk.
CPT codes:	83986

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