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Contact Points

Dr. Jonathan Berg
 Head of Department
 Email: jonathanberg@nhs.net

TPMT & Gastroenterology Laboratory
 Tel: 0121 507 5345

Mailing Address

Department of Clinical Biochemistry
 City Hospital
 Dudley Road
 Birmingham
 B18 7QH
 Fax: 0121 507 5290

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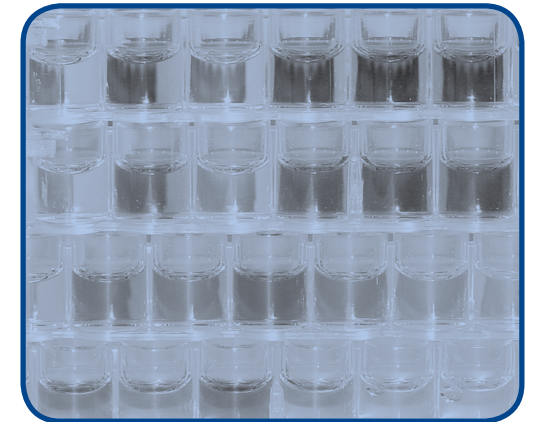


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Faecal Elastase-1 Test of Exocrine Pancreatic Function

FE-1 [E.C. 3.4.21.36]

Clinical Biochemistry



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Sending Specimens for Analysis

Sample requirement: A random stool sample provided in a suitable container.

- Faecal Elastase-1 is stable in faeces at room temperature for up to 1 week and for 1 month stored at 4°C.
- Please send samples in a sealed bag at ambient temperature, to arrive at the address on the back of this leaflet within 3 days.

Faecal Elastase-1 Assay

Faecal Elastase-1 concentration in stools is determined using an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ScheBo® Pancreatic Elastase-1 Stool Test)¹. The human Faecal Elastase-1 antibody used is immunologically specific and is not affected by enzyme replacement therapies.

Analysis of wet stool samples

High water content of stools can have a dilution effect on the concentration of Faecal Elastase-1 measured and give misleading low results. Our own audits have shown this affects 18% of all samples we receive. To overcome this problem we have developed a new pre-analytical technique for wet stools, which involves drying the stool sample prior to analysis². Results obtained by the

dried faecal method are now reported qualitatively to avoid the confusion of reporting against two very different reference ranges. Where a quantitative result is required, we suggest repeating faecal elastase-1 analysis when a more formed stool sample is available.

Reference Ranges

	Faecal Elastase (µg/g stool)
Normal	>200
Mild exocrine pancreatic insufficiency	100 - 200
Severe exocrine pancreatic insufficiency	<100

Clinical Use of Faecal Elastase

Faecal Elastase-1 is a proteolytic enzyme specifically secreted by the acinar cells of the pancreas. Unlike other pancreatic enzymes such as Chymotrypsin, Elastase-1 is not degraded during intestinal transit, and so the stool concentration reflects exocrine pancreatic function⁶.

Faecal Elastase-1 is increasingly being used as a non-invasive first line test to assess patients with chronic pancreatitis, cystic fibrosis, and other situations involving exocrine pancreas dysfunction³⁻⁵.

Faecal Elastase-1 measurement has been shown to be comparable to pancreatic function tests such as the pancreolauryl test and has higher sensitivity and specificity for pancreatic insufficiency than other pancreatic enzymes such as Faecal Chymotrypsin^{4,6}.

Faecal Elastase-1 measurement has been shown to be reproducible over time with a mean intra-variation coefficient of 16% reported for patients with chronic pancreatitis over a period of 7 months⁷.

References

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