



Ospedale
di Cremona

Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia

ASST Cremona

STOOL OVA AND PARASITES (O&P) TEST

COLLECTION METHOD

Important precautions:

A few days before and during the stool collection period:

- Avoid laxatives, anti-diarrhoeal drugs, antimicrobials, or other interfering substances such as barium, bismuth, or mineral oils;
- It is advisable to follow a diet that includes staying away from: legumes and dried fruits, fruits and vegetables with a tough cuticle (peaches, apricots, tomatoes, pears, strawberries, and figs), carrots, and bananas.

Required materials:

- Container with an airtight cap and a collecting scoop, available free of charge at your chosen collection point or for purchase at a pharmacy.

SAMPLE collection:

Collect stool on a dry surface such as:

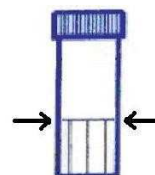
- a bedpan
- a plastic bag or a sheet of paper placed in the bidet or in a waste bin.



N.B.: Do **NOT** pass stool directly into the toilet.
Do **NOT** contaminate stool with urine.
PLACE the stool in the container.



- **Formed stool:** With the teaspoon inserted into the lid, collect approximately 10-20 grams of stool (a portion the size of a walnut) and place it in the container (about a third of the container's volume).
- **Liquid stool:** Pour approximately 10-20 ml of stool into the container (about a third of the container's volume).
Containers with too little material (level much less than a third of their volume) or too much material (containers filled to the brim) will NOT be accepted.
- Close the container and wash your hands thoroughly.



Storage and transport:

- Before delivery, stool samples can be stored at 4-8°C (in the refrigerator) for no longer than 24 hours.
- Deliver the stool sample to the chosen collection point during opening hours.
- Samples of **diarrhoeal stool** with suspected amoebiasis must be sent within 1/2 hour of collection to the Microbiology laboratory of the Cremona Hospital (0372 405455), in a container without any preservative.