Parasitic Investigation of Stool Specimens Algorithm

Patients with watery diarrhea
Risk factors for parasitic infection include:
- AIDS
- ≤5 years old (or contact)
- Camper or backpacker
- Contact with farm animals
- Involved in outbreak
  - Drinking/Recreational water source
  - Day care center

Refer to the algorithm: Laboratory Testing for Infectious Causes of Diarrhea

Patient is:
- A resident of, or visitor to, a developing country
- A resident of an area of Northern America where helminth (worm) infections have been reported with some frequency
- Possible roundworms or tapeworm segments are observed in stool/undergarments (not available for submission)

Object submitted is not a parasite. Consider submitting additional specimens or evaluate for delusional parasitosis

Possible roundworms or tapeworm segments are identified in stool/undergarments and are available for submission to lab

Parasitc Examination
If Strongyloides stercoralis is suspected, also consider STRNG / Strongyloides Antibody, IgG, Serum.

No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

If patient has diarrhea

If intestinal parasites are still suspected, obtain at least 2 more stool specimens, collected on separate days over a 10 day period

OAP / Parasitic Examination

NEGATIVE

No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

PARID / Parasitic Identification

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POSITIVE

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POSITIVE

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

NEGATIVE

*The primary helminth of concern is Strongyloides stercoralis, which is endemic in regions of the rural south eastern United States (eg, Appalachia).