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# Bulletin Technical

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## OVA AND PARASITES

Effective September 18, 2000, the ova and parasite examination of preserved stool specimens will not include a wet prep. The report will include a concentration, Crytosporidium stain and trichrome stain.

Ova and parasite examination of stool for intestinal parasites may consist of three separate techniques: wet prep exam, concentration, and stained prep. Each technique has advantages and disadvantages in detection and identification.

The wet prep is appropriate for unpreserved (fresh) stool specimens that are examined within one (1) hour of collection. This technique can detect the motility of parasites. This technique is the least time-consuming and preliminary reports are readily available.

The concentration and stained preps are appropriate for unpreserved or preserved stool specimens. Concentrations may use floatation or sedimentation techniques. Both separate the parasites, eggs or cysts from other fecal material, making the parasites easier to detect. The stain technique allows visualization of structural detail necessary for identification of the parasites, eggs or cysts.

The delivery of unpreserved specimens to the laboratory within an hour of collection is often difficult or impossible. Formalin and PVA are used as separate preservatives to allow delivery of the stool specimens within 48 hours. These preservatives destroy the motility of the parasites. Thus the wet prep's advantage as a technique is taken away, but the concentration and stain techniques advantages remain.

### REFERENCES:

NCCLS. Procedures for the Recovery and Identification of Parasites from the Intestinal Tract; Approved Guideline, M28-A, 1997.

Cumitech: Selection and Use of Laboratory Procedures for Diagnosis of Parasitic Infections of the Gastrointestinal Tract, 30, September 1996.

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