Nordic Laboratories

PATIENT:	**Sample Report**			TEST REF:	**TST-##-#####**
TEST NUMBER:	##########	COLLECTED:	dd/mm/yyyy	PRACTITIONER:	**Nordic Laboratories**
PATIENT NUMBER:	##########	RECEIVED:	dd/mm/yyyy	ADDRESS:	
GENDER:	Female	TESTED:	dd/mm/yyyy		
AGE:	32				
DATE OF BIRTH:	dd-mm-yyyy				

TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

Comprehensive Stool Analysis / Parasitology x2

BACTERIOLOGY CULTURE

Expected/Beneficial flora	Commensal (Imbalanced) flora	Dysbiotic flora
4+ Bacteroides fragilis group	1+ Beta strep, group B	3+ Klebsiella oxytoca
4+ Bifidobacterium spp.	2+ Citrobacter freundii complex	
3+ Escherichia coli	1+ Enterobacter cloacae complex	
3+ Lactobacillus spp.	2+ Hafnia alvei	
2+ Enterococcus spp.	2+ Lactococcus garvieae	
	3+ Lactococcus lactis	
1+ Clostridium spp.	1+ Pseudomonas aeruginosa	
NG = No Growth		

BACTERIA INFORMATION

Expected /Beneficial bacteria make up a significant portion of the total microflora in a healthy & balanced GI tract. These beneficial bacteria have many health-protecting effects in the GI tract including manufacturing vitamins, fermenting fibers, digesting proteins and carbohydrates, and propagating anti-tumor and anti-inflammatory factors.
Clostridia are prevalent flora in a healthy intestine. Clostridium spp. should be considered in the context of balance with other expected/beneficial flora. Absence of clostridia or over abundance relative to other expected/beneficial flora indicates bacterial imbalance. If *C. difficile* associated disease is suspected, a Comprehensive Clostridium culture or toxigenic *C. difficile* DNA test is recommended.
Commensal (Imbalanced) bacteria are usually neither pathogenic nor beneficial to the host GI tract. Imbalances can occur when there are insufficient levels of beneficial bacteria and increased levels of commensal bacteria. Certain commensal bacteria are reported as dysbiotic at higher levels.
Dysbiotic bacteria consist of known pathogenic bacteria and those that have the potential to cause disease in the GI tract. They can be present due to a number of factors including: consumption of contaminated water or food, exposure to chemicals that are toxic to beneficial bacteria; the use of antibiotics, oral contraceptives or other medications; poor fiber intake and high stress levels.

YEAST CULTURE

Normal flora	Dysbiotic flora
1+ Candida krusei	

MICROSCOPIC YEAST

Result:	Expected:
Few	None - Rare

Yeast in stool is expected at a level of none-rare. A microscopic finding of yeast in stool of few, moderate, or many may be helpful in identifying potential yeast overgrowth, or non-viable or dietary yeast.

YEAST INFORMATION

Yeast may normally be present in small quantities in the skin, mouth, and intestine. When investigating the presence of yeast, disparity may exist between culturing and microscopic examination. Yeast are not uniformly dispersed throughout the stool and this may lead to undetectable or low levels of yeast identified by microscopy, despite culture and identified yeast species. Conversely, microscopic examination may reveal a significant amount of yeast present but no viable yeast cultured. Yeast may not always survive transit through the intestines. Nonviable diet-derived yeast may also be detected microscopically. Consideration of clinical intervention for yeast detected microscopically should be made in the context of other findings and presentation of symptoms.

Comments:

Date Collected: 06/01/2019
Date Received: 06/01/2019
Date Reported: 06/01/2019

***Aeromonas, Campylobacter, Plesiomonas, Salmonella, Shigella, Vibrio, Yersinia, & Edwardsiella tarda* have been specifically tested for and found absent unless reported.**

MALDI-TOF

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TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

Comprehensive Stool Analysis / Parasitology x2

PROTOZOA	PX1	PX2	PX3
Balantidium coli	None Detected	None Detected	
Blastocystis spp	None Detected	None Detected	
Chilomastix mesnili	None Detected	None Detected	
Dientamoeba fragilis	None Detected	None Detected	
Entamoeba coli	None Detected	None Detected	
Entamoeba histolytica/dispar	None Detected	None Detected	
Entamoeba hartmanni	None Detected	None Detected	
Entamoeba polecki	None Detected	None Detected	
Endolimax nana	None Detected	None Detected	
Enteromonas hominis	None Detected	None Detected	
Giardia duodenalis	None Detected	None Detected	
Iodamoeba butschlii	None Detected	None Detected	
Isospora belli oocysts	None Detected	None Detected	
Pentatrichomonas hominis	None Detected	None Detected	
Retortamonas intestinalis	None Detected	None Detected	
NEMATODES - ROUNDWORMS			
Ascaris lumbricoides eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Capillaria philippinesis eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Capillaria hepatica eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Enterobius vermcularis eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Hookworm eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Strongyloides stercoralis	None Detected	None Detected	
Trichuris trichiura eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
CESTODES - TAPEWORMS			
Diphyllobothrium latum eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Dipylidium caninum eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Hymenolepis diminuta eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Hymenolepis nana eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Taenia eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
TREMATODES - FLUKES			
Clonorchis sinensis eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Fasciola hepatica/Fasciolopsis buski	None Detected	None Detected	
Paragonimus westermani eggs	None Detected	None Detected	
Heterophyes heterophyes	None Detected	None Detected	
ADDITIONAL ORGANISMS			
Ova or Parasites	None Detected	None Detected	
OTHER MARKERS			
Yeast	Rare	Few	
Red Blood Cells	None Detected	None Detected	
White Blood Cells	None Detected	None Detected	
Charcot-Leyden Crystals	None Detected	None Detected	
Pollen	None Detected	None Detected	
IMMUNOASSAY	**RESULT**	**REFERENCE INTERVAL**	
Giardia duodenalis	Neg	Neg	
Cryptosporidium	Neg	Neg	

INFORMATION

Intestinal parasites are abnormal inhabitants of the gastrointestinal tract that have the potential to cause damage to their host. The presence of any parasite within the intestine generally confirms that the patient has acquired the organism through fecal-oral contamination. Damage to the host includes parasitic burden, migration, blockage and pressure. Immunologic inflammation, hypersensitivity reactions and cytotoxicity also play a large role in the morbidity of these diseases. The infective dose often relates to severity of the disease and repeat encounters can be additive.

In general, acute manifestations of parasitic infection may involve diarrhea with or without mucus and or blood, fever, nausea, or abdominal pain. However these symptoms do not always occur. Consequently, parasitic infections may not be diagnosed or eradicated. If left untreated, chronic parasitic infections can cause damage to the intestinal lining and can be an unsuspected cause of illness and fatigue. Chronic parasitic infections can also be associated with increased intestinal permeability, irritable bowel syndrome, irregular bowel movements, malabsorption, gastritis or indigestion, skin disorders, joint pain, allergic reactions, and decreased immune function.

One negative parasitology x1 specimen does not rule out the possibility of parasitic disease, parasitology x3 is recommended. This test is not designed to detect Cyclospora cayetanensis or Microsporidia spp.

Comments:

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Date Reported: **06/01/2019**

Methodology: **Microscopy, EIA**

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TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

Comprehensive Stool Analysis / Parasitology x2

DIGESTION /ABSORPTION

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Elastase	**> 500**		> 200 µg/mL
Fat Stain	**None**		None - Mod
Muscle fibers	**None**		None - Rare
Vegetable fibers	**Rare**		None - Few
Carbohydrates	**Neg**		Neg

Elastase findings can be used for the diagnosis or the exclusion of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Correlations between low levels and chronic pancreatitis and cancer have been reported. **Fat Stain:** Microscopic determination of fecal fat using Sudan IV staining is a qualitative procedure utilized to assess fat absorption and to detect steatorrhea. **Muscle fibers** in the stool are an indicator of incomplete digestion. Bloating, flatulence, feelings of "fullness" may be associated with increase in muscle fibers. **Vegetable fibers** in the stool may be indicative of inadequate chewing, or eating "on the run". **Carbohydrates:** The presence of reducing substances in stool specimens can indicate carbohydrate malabsorption.

INFLAMMATION

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Lactoferrin	**2.4**		< 7.3 µg/mL
Calprotectin*	**12**		<= 50 µg/g
Lysozyme*	**292**		<= 600 ng/mL
White Blood Cells	**None**		None - Rare
Mucus	**Neg**		Neg

Lactoferrin and **Calprotectin** are reliable markers for differentiating organic inflammation (IBD) from function symptoms (IBS) and for management of IBD. Monitoring levels of fecal lactoferrin and calprotectin can play an essential role in determining the effectiveness of therapy, are good predictors of IBD remission, and can indicate a low risk of relapse. **Lysozyme*** is an enzyme secreted at the site of inflammation in the GI tract and elevated levels have been identified in IBD patients. **White Blood Cells** (WBC) and **Mucus** in the stool can occur with bacterial and parasitic infections, with mucosal irritation, and inflammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

IMMUNOLOGY

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Secretory IgA*		**476**	51 - 204 mg/dL

Secretory IgA* (sIgA) is secreted by mucosal tissue and represents the first line of defense of the GI mucosa and is central to the normal function of the GI tract as an immune barrier. Elevated levels of sIgA have been associated with an upregulated immune response.

Comments:

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***For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.**

Methodology: **Elisa, Microscopy, Colormetric, Gas Chromotography, ph Electrode**

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TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

Comprehensive Stool Analysis / Parasitology x2

SHORT CHAIN FATTY ACIDS

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
% Acetate	**66**		40 - 75 %
% Propionate	**23**		9 - 29 %
% Butyrate	**11**		9 - 37 %
% Valerate		**0.3**	0.5 - 7 %
Butyrate	**1.6**		0.8 - 4.8 mg/mL
Total SCFA's	**14**		4 - 18 mg/mL

Short chain fatty acids (SCFAs): SCFAs are the end product of the bacterial fermentation process of dietary fiber by beneficial flora in the gut and play an important role in the health of the GI as well as protecting against intestinal dysbiosis. Lactobacilli and bifidobacteria produce large amounts of short chain fatty acids, which decrease the pH of the intestines and therefore make the environment unsuitable for pathogens, including bacteria and yeast. Studies have shown that SCFAs have numerous implications in maintaining gut physiology. SCFAs decrease inflammation, stimulate healing, and contribute to normal cell metabolism and differentiation. Levels of **Butyrate** and **Total SCFA** in mg/mL are important for assessing overall SCFA production, and are reflective of beneficial flora levels and/or adequate fiber intake.

INTESTINAL HEALTH MARKERS

	Within	Outside	Reference Range
Red Blood Cells	**None**		None - Rare
pH		**5.9**	6 - 7.8
Occult Blood	**Neg**		Neg

Red Blood Cells (RBC) in the stool may be associated with a parasitic or bacterial infection, or an inflammatory bowel condition such as ulcerative colitis. Colorectal cancer, anal fistulas, and hemorrhoids should also be ruled out.
pH: Fecal pH is largely dependent on the fermentation of fiber by the beneficial flora of the gut.
Occult blood: A positive occult blood indicates the presence of free hemoglobin found in the stool, which is released when red blood cells are lysed.

MACROSCOPIC APPEARANCE

	Appearance	Expected
Color	**Brown**	Brown
Consistency	**Soft**	Formed/Soft

Color: Stool is normally brown because of pigments formed by bacteria acting on bile introduced into the digestive system from the liver. While certain conditions can cause changes in stool color, many changes are harmless and are caused by pigments in foods or dietary supplements. **Consistency:** Stool normally contains about 75% water and ideally should be formed and soft. Stool consistency can vary based upon transit time and water absorption.

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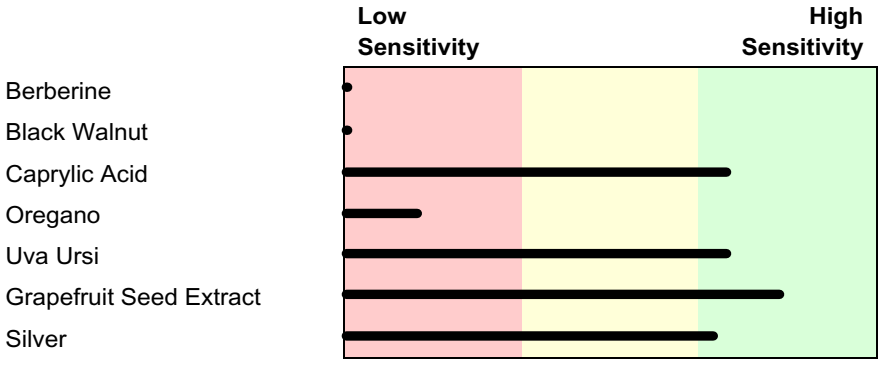
TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

Bacterial Susceptibilities: **Klebsiella oxytoca**

NATURAL ANTIBACTERIALS



Natural antibacterial agents may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed by using standardized techniques and filter paper disks impregnated with the listed agent. Relative sensitivity is reported for each natural agent based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition surrounding the disk. Data based on over 5000 individual observations were used to relate the zone size to the activity level of the agent. A scale of relative sensitivity is defined for the natural agents tested.

PRESCRIPTIVE AGENTS

	Resistant	Intermediate	Susceptible
Amoxicillin-Clavulanic Acid			S
Ampicillin	R		
Cefazolin			S
Ceftazidime			S
Ciprofloxacin			S
Trimeth-sulfa			S

Susceptible results imply that an infection due to the bacteria may be appropriately treated when the recommended dosage of the tested antimicrobial agent is used.
Intermediate results imply that response rates may be lower than for susceptible bacteria when the tested antimicrobial agent is used.
Resistant results imply that the bacteria will not be inhibited by normal dosage levels of the tested antimicrobial agent.

Comments:
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Natural antibacterial agent susceptibility testing is intended for research use only.
Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

v10.11

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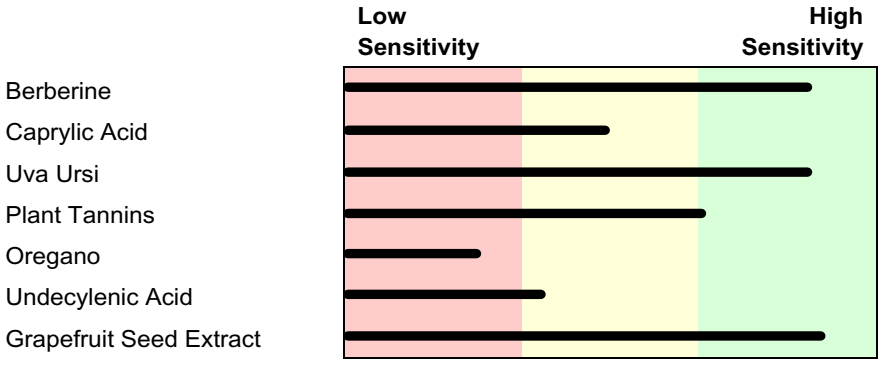
TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

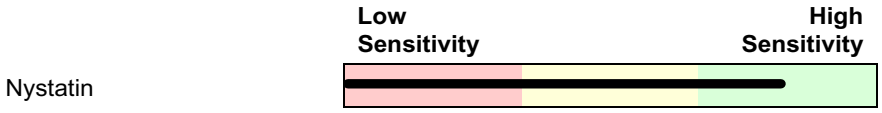
Yeast Susceptibilities: **Candida krusei**

NATURAL ANTIFUNGALS



Natural antifungal agents may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed by using standardized techniques and filter paper disks impregnated with the listed agent. Relative sensitivity is reported for each natural agent based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition surrounding the disk. Data based on over 5000 individual observations were used to relate the zone size to the activity level of the agent. A scale of relative sensitivity is defined for the natural agents tested.

NON-ABSORBED ANTIFUNGALS



Non-absorbed antifungals may be useful for treatment of patients when organisms display in-vitro sensitivity to these agents. The test is performed using standardized commercially prepared disks impregnated with Nystatin. Relative sensitivity is reported based upon the diameter of the zone of inhibition surrounding the disk.

AZOLE ANTIFUNGALS

	Resistant	S-DD	Susceptible
Fluconazole	R		
Itraconazole		S-DD	
Ketoconazole		S-DD	

Susceptible results imply that an infection due to the fungus may be appropriately treated when the recommended dosage of the tested antifungal agent is used.
Susceptible - Dose Dependent (S-DD) results imply that an infection due to the fungus may be treated when the highest recommended dosage of the tested antifungal agent is used.
Resistant results imply that the fungus will not be inhibited by normal dosage levels of the tested antifungal agent.

Standardized test interpretive categories established for Candida spp. are used for all yeast isolates.

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Yeast antifungal susceptibility testing is intended for research use only.
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TEST NAME: Comprehensive Stool Analysis & Parasitology x2 (CSAPx2)

INTRODUCTION

This analysis of the stool specimen provides fundamental information about the overall gastrointestinal health of the patient. When abnormal microflora or significant aberrations in intestinal health markers are detected, specific interpretive paragraphs are presented. If no significant abnormalities are found, interpretive paragraphs are not presented.

Imbalanced flora

Most of the reported imbalanced flora are commensal bacteria that reside in the host gastrointestinal tract; they do not benefit nor harm the host. Certain dysbiotic bacteria may appear under the commensal/imbalanced category if found at low levels (<3+) because they are not likely pathogenic at the levels detected. When several species of imbalanced bacteria are present, it is common to find inadequate levels of one or more of the beneficial bacteria, and/or an alkaline fecal pH. Hemolytic or mucoid E. coli are often associated with a low level of beneficial E. coli and alkaline pH, secondary to a mutation of beneficial E. coli (DDI observations). Treatment with antimicrobial agents is unnecessary unless bacteria appear under the dysbiotic category.

Mackowiak PA. The normal microbial flora. N Engl J Med. 1982;307(2):83-93.
Tenaillon O, Skurnik D, Picard B, et al. The population genetics of commensal Escherichia coli. Nat Rev Microbiol 2010;8:207-217.

Dysbiotic Flora

In a healthy balanced state of intestinal flora, the beneficial bacteria make up a significant proportion of the total microflora. However, in many individuals there is an imbalance or deficiency of beneficial flora and an overgrowth of non-beneficial (imbalance) or even pathogenic microorganisms (dysbiosis). This can be due to a number of factors including: consumption of contaminated water or food; daily exposure of chemicals that are toxic to beneficial bacteria; the use of antibiotics, oral contraceptives or other medications; poor fiber intake and high stress levels.

A number of toxic substances can be produced by the dysbiotic bacteria including amines, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, phenols, and secondary bile acids which may cause inflammation or damage to the brush border of the intestinal lining. If left unchecked, long-term damage to the intestinal lining may result in leaky gut syndrome, allergies, autoimmune disease (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis), irritable bowel syndrome, fatigue, chronic headaches, and sensitivities to a variety of foods. In addition, pathogenic bacteria can cause acute symptoms such as abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and fever in cases of food poisoning.

Bacterial sensitivities to a variety of prescriptive and natural agents have been provided for the pathogenic bacteria that were cultured from this patient's specimen. This provides the practitioner with useful information to help plan an appropriate treatment regimen. Supplementation with probiotics or consumption of foods (yogurt, kefir, miso, tempeh, tamari sauce) containing strains of lactobacilli, bifidobacteria, and enterococci can help restore healthy flora levels. Polyphenols in green and ginseng tea have been found to increase the numbers of

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beneficial bacteria. Hypochlorhydria may also predispose an individual to bacterial overgrowth, particularly in the small intestine. Nutritional anti-inflammatories can aid in reversing irritation to the GI lining. These include quercetin, vitamin C, curcumin, gamma-linoleic acid, omega-3 fatty acids (EPA, DHA), and aloe vera. Other nutrients such as zinc, beta-carotene, pantothenic acid, and L-glutamine provide support for regeneration of the GI mucosa. A comprehensive program may be helpful in individuals in whom a dysbiotic condition has caused extensive GI damage.

Lispki E. Digestive Wellness. New Canaan,CT: Keats Publishing;1996.

Mitsuoka T. Intestinal Flora and Aging. Nutr Rev 1992;50(12):438-446.

Weisburger JH. Tea and Health: The Underlying Mechanisms. Proc Soc Exp Biol Med 1999;220(4):271-275.4.

Pereira SP, Gainsborough N, Dowling RH. Drug-induced Hypochlorhydria Causes High Duodenal Bacterial Counts in the Elderly. Ailment Pharmacol Ther 1998;12(1)99-104.

Murray MT. Stomach Ailments and Digestive Disturbances. Rocklin, CA: Prima Publishing; 1997.

Klebsiella species

Klebsiella belongs to the Enterobacteriaceae family and is closely related to the genera Enterobacter and Serratia. This gram-negative bacterium is considered dysbiotic in the amount of 3 - 4+.

Klebsiellae are widely distributed in nature and in the gastrointestinal tract of humans. In humans, they may colonize the skin, oral cavity, pharynx, or gastrointestinal tract. Klebsiellae may be regarded as normal flora in many parts of the colon, intestinal tract and biliary tract, but the gut is also the main reservoir of opportunistic strains.

This bacterium has the potential to cause intestinal, lung, urinary tract, and wound infections in susceptible individuals, but Klebsiella overgrowth is commonly asymptomatic. K. pneumoniae, in particular, may cause diarrhea and some strains are enterotoxigenic. Infection has been linked to ankylosing spondylitis as well as myasthenia gravis (antigenic cross-reactivity), and these patients usually carry larger numbers of the organism in their intestines than healthy individuals. Klebsiella oxytoca has been found to be the cause of antibiotic-associated hemorrhagic colitis. These strains have been shown to produce a cytotoxin that is capable of inducing cell death in various epithelial-cell cultures.

Klebsiella is also an infamously known nosocomial infectious agent, partially due to the ability of organisms to spread rapidly. Klebsiella accounts for approximately 3-7% of all hospital-acquired infections, placing it among the top eight pathogens in hospitals. Extraintestinal infection typically involves the respiratory or urinary tracts, but may infect other areas such as the biliary tract and surgical wound sites. K. pneumoniae and K. oxytoca are the two members of this genus responsible for most extraintestinal human infections.

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Treatment of these species has become a major problem in most hospitals because of resistance to multiple antibiotics and potential transfer of plasmids to other organisms. Proper hand washing is crucial to prevent transmission from patient to patient via medical personnel. Contact isolation should be used for patients colonized or infected with highly antibiotic-resistant Klebsiella strains.

Klebsiella ozaenae and Klebsiella rhinoscleromatis are infrequent isolates that are subspecies of K. pneumoniae; however, each is associated with at unique spectrum of disease. K. ozaenae is associated with atrophic rhinitis, a condition called ozena, and purulent infections of the nasal mucous membranes. K. rhinoscleromatis causes the granulomatous disease rhinoscleroma, an infection of the respiratory mucosa, oropharynx, nose, and paranasal sinuses.

For the otherwise healthy individual, antimicrobial therapy is often unnecessary. Klebsiella thrives on a diet high in starch, so a low-starch diet may be helpful. A further caution is that Klebsiella thrives on Fructooligosaccharides (FOS) a class of oligosaccharides used as an artificial or alternative sweetener. Antibiotics may be indicated if symptoms are prolonged and in systemic infections. Refer to the bacterial sensitivities to identify the most appropriate pharmaceutical or natural agent.

Hogenauer C, Langner C, Beubler E, et al. Klebsiella oxytoca as a Causative Organism of Antibiotic-Associated Hemorrhagic Colitis. New England Journal of Medicine. December 2006;355;23.

Levy I et al. Nosocomial Infections After Cardiac Surgery in Infants and Children: Incidence and Risk Factors. J Hosp Infect. 2003;53(2):111-6.

Washington W, Allen S, Janda W, Koneman E, Procop G, Schreckenberger P, Woods, G. Koneman's Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th edition. Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 2006. pg 259-264.

Murray PR, Baron EJ, Jorgensen JH, Pfaller MA, Yolken RH. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8th edition. Washington, DC: ASM Press; 2003. pg 688-689.

Cultured Yeast

Yeast, such as Candida are normally present in the GI tract in very small amounts. Many species of yeast exist and are commensal; however, they are always poised to create opportunistic infections and have detrimental effects throughout the body. Factors that contribute to a proliferation of yeast include frequent use of wide-spread antibiotics/low levels of beneficial flora, oral contraceptives, pregnancy, cortisone and other immunosuppressant drugs, weak immune system/low levels of sIgA, high-sugar diet, and high stress levels.

When investigating the presence of yeast, disparity may exist between culturing and microscopic examination. Yeast grows in colonies and is typically not uniformly dispersed throughout the stool. This may lead to undetectable or low levels of yeast identified by microscopy, despite a cultured amount of yeast. Conversely, microscopic examination may reveal a significant amount of yeast present, but no yeast cultured. Yeast does not always survive transit through the intestines rendering it unviable for culturing. Therefore, both microscopic examination and culture are helpful

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in determining if abnormally high levels of yeast are present.

Microscopic yeast

Microscopic examination has revealed yeast in this stool sample. The microscopic finding of yeast in the stool is helpful in identifying whether the proliferation of fungi, such as Candida albicans, is present. Yeast is normally found in very small amounts in a healthy intestinal tract. While small quantities of yeast (reported as none or rare) may be normal, yeast observed in higher amounts (few, moderate to many) is considered abnormal.

An overgrowth of intestinal yeast is prohibited by beneficial flora, intestinal immune defense (secretory IgA), and intestinal pH. Beneficial bacteria, such as Lactobacillus colonize in the intestines and create an environment unsuitable for yeast by producing acids, such as lactic acid, which lowers intestinal pH. Also, lactobacillus is capable of releasing antagonistic substances such as hydrogen peroxide, lactocidin, lactobacillin, and acidolin.

Many factors can lead to an overgrowth of yeast including frequent use of antibiotics (leading to insufficient beneficial bacteria), synthetic corticosteroids, oral contraceptives, and diets high in sugar. Although there is a wide range of symptoms which can result from intestinal yeast overgrowth, some of the most common include brain fog, fatigue, reccurring vaginal or bladder infections, sensitivity to smells (perfumes, chemicals, environment), mood swings/depression, sugar and carbohydrate cravings, gas/bloating, and constipation or loose stools.

A positive yeast culture (mycology) and sensitivity to prescriptive and natural agents is helpful in determining which anti-fungal agents to use as part of a therapeutic treatment plan for chronic colonic yeast. However, yeast are colonizers and do not appear to be dispersed uniformly throughout the stool. Yeast may therefore be observed microscopically, but not grow out on culture even when collected from the same bowel movement.

Secretory IgA (sIgA)

The concentration of sIgA is abnormally high in this fecal specimen. Immunological activity in the gastrointestinal tract can be assessed using secretory immunoglobulin A (sIgA). Secretory IgA is the predominant antibody or immune protein the body manufactures and releases in external secretions such as saliva, tears, and milk [1]. It is also transported through the epithelial cells that line the intestines out into the lumen. Secretory IgA represents the first line of defense of the GI mucosa and is central to the normal function of the GI tract as an immune barrier [1]. As the principal immunoglobulin isotype present in mucosal secretions, sIgA plays an important role in controlling intestinal milieu which is constantly presented with potentially harmful antigens such as pathogenic bacteria, parasites, yeast, viruses, abnormal cell antigens, and allergenic proteins [1].
Secretory IgA antibodies exert their function by binding to antigenic epitopes on the invading microorganism limiting their mobility and adhesion to the epithelium of the mucus membrane [2]. This prevents the antigens from reaching systemic circulation allowing them to be excreted directly in the feces.

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Elevated fecal sIgA is an appropriate response to an antigenic presence. Microbial and microscopic studies of the stool are useful in identifying if bacteria, yeast, or parasites are present. Eradication of the pathogenic microorganisms will bring sIgA back down into the normal range. Elevated sIgA levels have been observed in the absence of bacteria, yeast or parasites, in individuals with atopic conditions such as food allergies, urticaria, and dermatitis.

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Short Chain Fatty Acids (SCFAs)

The relative and/or total amounts of SCFAs are abnormal in this specimen. In infants, microbial colonization and subsequent SCFA production is a gradual process which is largely determined by environmental exposure, maternal gut microflora, breastfeeding, and possibly genetics [1]. The establishment of an adequate distribution of healthy flora in the gut is crucial in the health of both infants and adults because of the ”competitive exclusion” process of dysbiotic flora [1]. Healthy microflora, such as Lactobacillus and Bifidus generate large amounts of SCFAs (acetic, proprionic, butyric, and valeric) which decrease the pH of the intestine and therefore make the environment unsuitable for pathogens, including bacteria and yeast [1]. SCFAs are the end product of the bacterial fermentation process of dietary fiber by beneficial flora in the gut and play an important role in the prevention of intestinal dysbiosis [1].

The amount and types of SCFAs produced by colonic bacteria will depend on factors such as type of fiber consumed and overall intestinal health. For example, more SCFAs in general are produced by gums and pectins than oat fiber or corn bran; more propionate and butyrate are produced by

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bacterial activity on gums than pectins [2]. Antibiotic-induced diarrhea may be secondary to decreased colonic fermentation of carbohydrates and decreased overall production of SCFAs [3].

Studies show that SCFAs have numerous implications in gut physiology and health. SCFAs decrease inflammation, stimulate healing, and contribute to normal cell metabolism and differentiation [4]. Acetate, propionate and butyrate have been demonstrated to potentially improve the microcirculation in the intestinal mucosa thereby improving its growth and repair [5,6]. Rectal irrigation with SCFAs can result in improvement of ulcerative colitis [7]. Butyrate and propionate contribute to apoptosis of colorectal cells by increasing the production of reactive oxygen species in the gut [8]. Butyrate also has a positive effect on the differentiation of colonocytes, and this may account for the protective effect of dietary fiber against colorectal cancer [9]. Probiotics and increased dietary fiber can improve/normalize SCFA status.

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pH low

The pH of this stool sample (<6.0) is too acidic. Ideally, the pH of the stool is slightly acidic. This represents colonic pH, which is largely reflective of bacterial fermentation and putrefaction of intestinal contents. Beneficial bacteria such as Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium and clostridia produce large amounts of short chain fatty acids (acetate, propionate, butyrate and valerate), which may contribute to lower colonic pH. Short chain fatty acids are products of the fermentation of soluble of dietary fiber by beneficial flora in the gut. An acidic pH, below 6.0, is commonly associated with rapid transit time, e.g. diarrhea or loose stools, more than three bowel movements per day. Further investigation of the cause of rapid transit such as food intolerance, and viral, bacterial, parasitic

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infection, may be warranted. Additionally, research has indicated that an acidic pH (< 6.0) is common in individuals with lactose malabsorption . Unabsorbed lactose in the gut can be hydrolysed by colonic bacteria forming volatile fatty acids which cause the stool to become acidic, often times accompanied by a sweet, sickly stool odor.

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Beneficial Flora

One or more of the expected or beneficial bacteria are low in this specimen. Normally abundant include lactobacilli, bifidobacteria, clostridia, Bacteroides fragilis group, enterococci, and some strains of Escherichia coli. The beneficial flora have many health-protecting effects in the gut, and as a consequence, are crucial to the health of the whole organism. Some of the roles of the beneficial flora include digestion of proteins and carbohydrates, manufacture of vitamins and essential fatty acids, increase in the number of immune system cells, break down of bacterial toxins and the conversion of flavinoids into anti-tumor and anti-inflammatory factors. Lactobacilli, bifidobacteria, clostridia, and enterococci secrete lactic acid as well as other acids including acetate, propionate, butyrate, and valerate. This secretion causes a subsequent decrease in intestinal pH, which is crucial in preventing an enteric proliferation of microbial pathogens, including bacteria and yeast. Many GI pathogens thrive in alkaline environments. Lactobacilli also secrete the antifungal and antimicrobial agents lactocidin, lactobacillin, acidolin, and hydrogen peroxide. The beneficial flora of the GI have thus been found useful in the inhibition of microbial pathogens, prevention and treatment of antibiotic associated diarrhea, prevention of traveler's diarrhea, enhancement of immune function, and inhibition of the proliferation of yeast.

In a healthy balanced state of intestinal flora, the beneficial bacteria make up a significant aproportion of the total microflora. Healthy levels of each of the beneficial bacteria are indicated by either a 2+, 3+ or 4+ (0 to 4 scale). However, in some individuals there is an imbalance or deficiency of beneficial flora and an overgrowth of non-beneficial (imbalance) or even pathogenic microorganisms (dysbiosis). This can be due to a number of factors including: consumption of contaminated water or food; daily exposure of chemicals that are toxic to beneficial bacteria; the use of antibiotics, oral contraceptives or other medications; poor fiber intake and high stress levels.

A number of toxic substances can be produced by the dysbiotic bacteria including amines, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, phenols, and secondary bile acids which may cause inflammation or damage to the brush border of the intesting lining. If left unchecked, long-term damage to the intestinal lining may result in leaky gut symdrome, fatigue, chronic

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headaches, and sensitivitites to a variety of foods. In addition, pathogenic bacteria can cause acute symptoms such as abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and fever in cases of food poisoning.

Antibacterial and antifungal susceptibility testing to a variety of prescriptive and natural agents may be provided for the pathogenic organisms that are cultured from this patient's specimen. This testing is intended to provide the practitioner with useful information to help plan an appropriate treatment regimen. A comprehensive program may be helpful in individuals in whom a dysbiotic condition has caused extensive GI damage.

Note: Not all genera or species can be tested for susceptibility in the laboratory due to their specific growth requirements. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention recommend not testing certain orgamisms such as those associated with food poisoning. If a practitioner has specific questions, please contact customer service.

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