

Cryptosporidia antigen[^]

General:

C. parvum belongs to sporozoa (parasites) and can be found in the intestinal mucosa of humans and many animals: calves, mice, dogs, cats and others. The infection occurs via oocysts from animal excrements or via fecal-oral transmission between individuals. Endogenous autoinfection is possible. After intracellular reproduction, a part of the intestinal mucosa is damaged. Cryptosporidia are also detected in healthy individuals without clinical symptoms.

Early symptoms are: slight diarrhea; a manifested cryptosporidiosis proceeds with intense diarrhea (aqueous, putrefactively smelling stool), meteorism, nausea, colic attacks and high loss of water, usually without fever and continuing up to 7 days. An involvement of liver and lung with pneumonia is possible, but occurs rarely. Spontaneous healing occurs generally after 7-10 days, however long and severe courses are observed in immune suppression. In chronic courses a persisting infection with permanent diarrheas can be seen along with malabsorption, hypokalemia, vitamin-B12 deficiency or pancreatitis as long-term outcomes. Congenital infections are not known. Disposition factors are: children under 2 years, immune suppression, AIDS, leukemia of children, after bone marrow transplantation.

Therapy recommended only in severe cases and if other causes of gastroenteritis have been excluded.

Indication: continuous diarrheas

Material: 5 g stool

TAT: same day, FML

Preanalytics: stool must be fresh, not older than 1 hour / SAF solution

Method: microscopy

Ref.- range: negative

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>