

# Helicobacter pylori Stool Antigen Test (HpSA)



HpSA is also available as an addition to any CDSA Level. Simply include HpSA as part of your request if clinically appropriate.

Helicobacter pylori (H.pylori) are the most common bacteria to infect humans. They are found in the gastric mucosa and the mouth and are transmitted orally through saliva. H.pylori infection may cause symptoms such as gastritis, halitosis, heart burn and abdominal cramping and is known to be a major cause of gastric ulcers.

The Helicobacter pylori Stool Antigen test (HpSA) is an enzyme immunoassay which detects H.pylori antigens present in human stool specimens. This faecal-antigen test overcomes most of the limitations of existing tests for H.pylori. HpSA has a 95% correlation with reference methods such as endoscopy, histology and urea breath test.

## Test Kit

Once the practitioner has given the patient their request form the patient can order their test kit online at [www.functionalpathology.com.au](http://www.functionalpathology.com.au) or by calling Healthscope Functional Pathology customer service on 1300 55 44 80 between the hours of 8.30am and 5.30pm AEST. The test kit contains full instructions.

## Specimen Requirements

- One stool specimen is required which must be collected in the morning

## Patient Preparation

- The stool specimen must be collected in the morning and care taken to ensure it is not contaminated with urine
- Patients must not ingest any antimicrobials, proton pump inhibitors or bismuth compounds within two weeks prior to testing

## Turnaround Time

The standard turnaround time for this test is 7 – 10 working days from the date the patient's specimen/s are received at our laboratory.

## Test Results

Patient results will be delivered via mail, unless requested otherwise. However, we can also issue results via:

- Fax
- Electronic Download
- Web Based Results

## Technical Support

All Healthscope Functional Pathology tests are accompanied by an Interpretive Guide to assist practitioners in their clinical understanding and patient management for each result. Healthscope Functional Pathology also has experienced full time Technical Advisors available for practitioners to discuss appropriate test selection, interpretation of test results, individual cases and other technical matters. Please call 1300 55 44 80 between the hours of 8.30am and 5.30pm AEST or email [infofp@healthscope.com.au](mailto:infofp@healthscope.com.au)

## Companion Tests

- CDSA
- IP

The results of the HpSA test may indicate the need for additional Healthscope Functional Pathology tests. For example, a CDSA is recommended as this test provides information on digestive function, microbial flora as well as other potential pathogens. An overview of digestive function may provide valuable information on the host environment for H.pylori or detect other causes for patients presenting with digestive system complaints.

Altered intestinal permeability is often seen in conjunction with H.pylori infection and plays an important role in the defence mechanism of the gut. The intestinal permeability (IP) test is another simple, non invasive test which is recommended in conjunction with the HpSA test.

# Helicobacter pylori Stool Antigen Test (HpSA)

The Helicobacter pylori Stool Antigen (HpSA) test detects Helicobacter pylori (H.pylori) antigens present in the human stool.

This faecal-antigen test overcomes most of the limitations of existing tests for H.pylori, by being a non invasive test which can be performed in the privacy of the patient's home. HpSA has a 95% correlation with reference methods such as endoscopy, histology and urea breath test.

## Clinical Indications and Applications

Diagnosis of active H.pylori infection in symptomatic patients

Confirmation of eradication of H.pylori following treatment

## Acid-blocking Medication and H.pylori Stool Antigen Testing

Clinical trials have shown the use of antimicrobials, proton pump inhibitors and bismuth preparations do NOT interfere with positive results. If results are negative it is recommended that patients stop taking acid blocking medications for two weeks and have the test repeated, as the initial result may have been a "false-negative".

## Follow-up Testing

It is recommended patients are retested four (4) weeks after completion of treatment.

## Treatment Considerations

### Immune Support and Antimicrobials

Oregano	Golden seal
Cranberry juice	Green tea
Citrus seed extract	Thyme
Garlic	

## References

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Bone K. Mediherb Modern Phytotherapist, 1995: 2(1): 10- 11