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Director Approval _____ Date _____

UCSF Medical Center Clinical Laboratories	Point of Care Testing
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MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION FOR PINWORM

PURPOSE

Enterobiasis is best diagnosed by microscopic examination of specimens taken from the perianal region to identify *Enterobius Vermicularis* eggs or adult female worms if present.

SCOPE

The procedure is performed in the Hospital and Ambulatory settings by Medical Doctors and Nurse Practitioners who have been trained and maintain annual competency in this procedure.

PERSONNEL

- Licensed Medical Doctors
- Licensed Nurse Practitioners

REAGENTS, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Cellulose Tape Method

- Transparent cellulose tape (Do not use “Magic Tape”.)
- Tongue depressor
- Clean sterile glass slides
- Toluene or xylene
 - a. Store in closed container at room temperature.
 - b. Keep away from heat
- Cotton or gauze
- Microscope with low power objective

SWUBE ® Paddle Method

- SWUBE ® Paddle (TM of Becton-Dickinson and Co.)
- Clean sterile glass slides
- Microscope with low power objective

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

- **Specimens are labeled with two forms of patient identification**
- Specimen must be collected at night or first thing in the morning before a bowel movement or bath.
- Female pinworms deposit eggs sporadically so specimens must be collected on at least four consecutive days to rule out a false negative result.

QUALITY CONTROL

N/A

PROCEDURE

Cellulose Tape Method

1. Stretch a piece of transparent cellulose tape, 2-3 inches in length, over the end of a tongue depressor. Adhesive inside out. (Do not use “Magic Tape”.)
2. Press the adhesive surface to the right and left perianal folds.
3. When finished remove tape from tongue depressor and stretch out lengthwise on a glass slide, adhesive side down.
4. Lift tape from slide to one end, leaving the other end attached to the slide.
5. Add one drop of toluene or xylene to the slide, underneath the tape, and replace tape onto slide.
6. Smooth down tape with cotton or gauze
7. Using a microscope, examine the slide for eggs and female adults under the low power objective.

SWUBE ® Paddle Method

1. Hold paddle by the cap and remove from tube.
2. Press sticky surface to the right and left perianal folds.
3. Replace the paddle in the tube until microscopic examination.
4. Place the paddle on a slide.
5. Using a microscope, examine the entire paddle for eggs or female adults under the low power objective.

RESULTS AND REPORTING

Pinworm eggs are elongate and flattened on one side, with a thick colorless shell. The adult female pinworms may also be seen on the tape preparation. They are characterized by a long, pointed tail.

- Report as “Positive” – Enterobius Vermicularis ova or adults present.
- Report as “Negative” – No Enterobius Vermicularis ova or adults present
- Record the results in the patient’s Medical record chart.
- Include the date/time and name of person performing the test.

ALTERNATIVE TEST METHODS

Test is performed in the Clinical Laboratory.

RECORDS MAINTENANCE

- Individual patient results are kept in their medical record charts indefinitely.

REFERENCES

- Smith, J., and Gutierrez, Y., Todd-Stanford-Davidsohn Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods, 17th ed., W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1984, pp. 1216-17, 1245.
- Ash, L. and Orihel, T., Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 6th ed., American Society for Microbiology, Wash. D.C., 1995, pp. 1152,1229.
- SWUBE ® Paddle Product insert. Becton-Dickinson and Co., 1986
- Internal Policy