

New Test Announcement



Fecal Occult Blood, New Immunochemical Procedure

Effective 10/19/2010, Fecal Occult Blood testing will be performed by immunochemical testing using “Clearview iFOB Complete.”

Historically, fecal occult blood testing has been fraught with compliance, sensitivity and specificity difficulties. The traditional guaiac method required three stool collections, a rigid preparatory diet, was subject to interference from many dietary and therapeutic compounds and had a sensitivity of 300 µg Hb/g feces.

In December 2008, the American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines for Colorectal Cancer Screening recommended a “....preferred cancer detection test – annual fecal immunochemical test (FIT) to detect occult bleeding.” This new immunochemical fecal occult blood (iFOB) test will require a single stool, no dietary restrictions and is specific for human hemoglobin at a sensitivity of 50 µg hHb/g feces. Patients with urinary, menstrual, constipation or hemorrhoid bleeding should not be considered for this test until bleeding ceases. Alcohol and certain medications that may cause gastrointestinal irritation and subsequent bleeding in some patients should be discontinued at least 48 hours prior to testing.

Link to ACG Guidelines: www.acg.gi.org/media/releases/ACG2009CRCCGuideline.pdf

If you have questions, please contact K. Baer, M.D. (218)249-5751, Chemistry Medical Director or Bob Denno, MT (ASCP) (218) 249-5234, Urology Technical Specialist.

St. Luke's Laboratory Services has recently developed a Web page which contains New Test Announcements.