



PANCREATIC ELASTASE 1 - Test Code 2014



Turnaround Time: 3-5 business days



Specimen Type: Stool Kit

Description

Pancreatic elastase (PE1) is a critical enzyme produced by the pancreas, responsible for aiding digestion by breaking down food in the small intestine. Assessing pancreatic elastase levels through a stool sample provides insight into the exocrine function of the pancreas, which is essential for proper digestion and nutrient absorption (Mathew et al., 2023).

Testing for pancreatic elastase serves as a key method for identifying pancreatic insufficiency, where the pancreas fails to produce adequate digestive enzymes. Low levels of PE1 may indicate conditions such as chronic pancreatitis, cystic fibrosis, or pancreatic cancer (Mathew et al., 2023). Early detection of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) helps prevent complications like malnutrition, weight loss, and vitamin deficiencies, while improving the management of symptoms such as bloating, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain (Mathew et al., 2023).

The pancreatic elastase test can be ordered as a standalone assessment or in conjunction with a Comprehensive Digestive Stool Analysis (CDSA) panel that evaluates additional gastrointestinal markers. This flexibility allows for a comprehensive understanding of a patient's digestive health.

Whats included?

- Pancreatic Elastase 1 (PE1)

Conditions and Symptoms

- Poor digestion
- Pain or discomfort after eating
- Pancreatitis
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency
- Pancreatic dysfunction
- Steatorrhea or fatty stool

Complementary Testing

- CDSA Level 1 (Test code 2003)
- IgG 96 General Western Food Panel (Test code 3206)

Accreditations Include:

- NATA ISO 15189 – Requirements for Quality and Competence in Medical Laboratories*
- CLIA – Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments*



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*See NATA and CLIA website for further details