
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: APT, STOOL

General Information

Lab Order Codes: APT

Synonyms: Hemoglobin F

CPT Codes: 83033 – Hemoglobin; F (fetal), qualitative

Test Includes: Qualitative testing for fetal blood in stool or gastric contents. Resulted as positive or negative for fetal blood.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for differentiating between newborn swallowing mother's blood and fetal gastrointestinal bleeding.

Note: The APT test is used to determine whether blood in the diaper, vomitus, or feces of a neonate contains predominantly the baby's or the mother's blood. It is a crude, non-quantitative method based on resistance of hemoglobin F to alkali denaturation.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily; 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 4 hours

Special Instructions: This test is useful **ONLY** on frankly bloody (red) stool or gastric specimens, not tarry (black) specimens.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Stool or gastric contents

Container: Leakproof container

Draw Volume: 0.5 – 1 mL stool or gastric contents

Processed Volume: Minimum: 0.5 mL stool or gastric contents

Collection:	Routine stool or gastric contents collection
Special Processing:	N/A
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Brown or tarry stools are not acceptable and will be rejected; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: Negative for fetal blood

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Tests performed in cases of melena or with coffee ground material (denatured blood) may produce a false-positive result as oxyhemoglobin has been converted to hematin. Visual judgement of color produced by test procedure may lead to error if only a small amount of blood is present. Bilirubin containing meconium and possibly other substances may cause stool color interference.

Methodology: Alkaline Denaturation

References: Apt L, et al, Melena Neonatum, The Swallowed Blood Syndrome, J Pediat, 45:5, 6-12