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**Lab Dept:** Other Fluids

**Test Name:** OCCULT BLOOD, GASTRIC

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** OCBG

**Synonyms:** Gastric Occult Blood; Occult Blood, Gastric

**CPT Codes:** 82273 - Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity qualitative; other sources, 1 – 3 simultaneous determinations

**Test Includes:** Rapid screening test designed for detecting the presence of occult blood of gastric aspirate or vomitus.

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***Logistics***

**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-5866

STP Lab: 651-220-6555

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 2 hours

**Special Instructions:** Requisition must state specific **date/time of collection**.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Gastric aspirate or vomitus

**Container:** Sterile container

**Volume:** 0.5 mL

**Collection:** Gastric aspirate

1. The patient should fast prior to the procedure.
2. Pass a well-lubricated tube orally or nasally through to the stomach.
3. Perform the lavage.
4. Before removing the tube, release the suction and the clamp to prevent mucosal trauma and/or aspiration.
5. Place specimen in sterile container.

**Transport/Storage:**                   • Transport fresh specimen to the Microbiology Laboratory immediately at room temperature.  
• Specimens are stable at room temperature for 24 hours.

**Sample Rejection:**                   Specimen with a transit time exceeding 24 hours after collection; specimen not submitted in appropriate transport container; improperly labeled specimen; insufficient volume; external contamination. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing station will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:**                   Negative to trace

**Limitations:**                         Gastrocult® test results can be used as an aid in diagnosis, and are not intended to replace other diagnostic procedures such as gastroscopic examination or x-ray studies.

**Methodology:**                        Gastrocult®

**Additional Information:**            The identification of occult blood can be useful in the early detection of gastric trauma or deteriorating gastric condition. Standard fecal occult blood tests lose sensitivity at low pH levels and are not suitable for use with gastric samples. Gastrocult® is free from interference by normal concentrations of cimetidine (Tagamet), iron or copper salts. Fecal occult blood systems are affected by these interferences.

**References:**                         Gastrocult® Product Instructions 462405. DC, Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA 92821, December 2013

Rosenthal, PI, et al., Detection of Occult blood in Gastric Juice. J. Clin Gastroenterology 6:119-121, 1984

**Updated:**                             11/10/2009: pH no longer reported as part of the testing.