

Background

Gastrocult is a rapid screening test for detecting the presence of occult blood and determining pH of gastric aspirate or vomitus. The Gastrocult slide includes both a guaiac test for occult blood and a pH test. It is recommended for diagnostic use as an aid in the diagnosis and management of various gastric conditions which may be encountered in intensive care areas, the emergency room, surgical recovery room and other clinical settings. The detection of occult blood and measurement of pH can be useful in the early identification of gastric trauma or a deteriorating gastric condition, and evaluation of antacid therapy.

Specimen Collection and Handling

- A. Gastric aspirate obtained by nasogastric intubation or vomitus are appropriate specimens.
- B. No special patient preparation is necessary.
- C. It is recommended that samples be tested immediately after collection.
- D. Samples applied to the occult blood area of a slide are stable for 4 days before being developed. If samples are not applied immediately, they can be stored in a clean sealed container (glass or plastic) for 24 hours at room temperature 15° to 25° C.

Materials/Reagents

- A. Gastrocult Slides
- B. Gastrocult Developer (available separately)
- C. Applicators (available separately)
- D. Gastrocult Product Instructions

Storage and Stability

Store box containing slides at controlled room temperature 15° to 30° C. Do not refrigerate or freeze. Protect slides and Developer from heat, light and open air. Do not store slides and Developer near volatile chemicals (e.g., iodine, chlorine, bromine, or ammonia). Do not store slides in a ventilation hood. Do not use after expiration date. The Gastrocult Slides and Developer, stored as recommended, will remain stable until the expiration dates which appear on each slide and developer bottle.

Procedure

- A. Open the slide.
- B. Apply one drop of gastric sample to pH test circle and one drop to occult blood test area.
- C. Determine pH of sample by visual comparison of the test area to the pH test comparator within 30 seconds.
- D. Apply two drops of Gastrocult Developer directly over the sample in the occult blood test area. **Important Note:** Some gastric samples

may be highly colored and appear as blue or green on the test area. Test results should only be regarded as positive if additional blue is formed after Gastrocult Developer is added.

- E. Interpret occult blood results within 60 seconds. The development of any trace of blue color in the occult blood test area is regarded as a positive result.

Interpretation

- A. pH Test
 1. Visually compare the test area to pH color comparator within 30 seconds.
- B. Occult Blood
 1. Negative Results - no detectable blue in the occult blood test area.
 2. Positive Results - any trace of blue in the occult blood test area.
- C. Consult the Product Instructions for a full explanation of limitations and interfering substances.

Quality Control

The positive and negative Performance Monitors areas provide two levels of control. The following manufacturer recommendation for quality control should be performed on each Gastrocult slide.

- A. Procedure
 1. Perform quality control procedure only after patient test area has been developed, read and interpreted .
 2. Apply one drop of Gastrocult Developer between the positive and negative Performance Monitors areas.
 3. Read result within 10 seconds.
- B. Interpretation
 1. If the slide and developer are functional, a blue color will appear in the positive Performance Monitors area, while no blue will appear in the negative Performance Monitors area.
 2. If the Performance Monitors areas do not perform as described, test results are invalid; call Technical Marketing Department at 1(800) 877-6242.
 3. Quality control of the pH test portion may be performed using colorless, buffered referenced standards, standardized against National Institute of Standards and Technology. Two levels of standards are recommended.

Limitations

As with any occult blood test, the results of the Gastrocult test cannot be considered conclusive evidence of the presence or absence of upper gastrointestinal bleeding or pathology.

Comments and Technical Assistance

A. Precautions

1. Because this test is visually read and requires color differentiation, it should not be interpreted by people who are color-blind or visually impaired.
2. Patient specimens and all materials that come in contact with them, should be handled as potentially infectious and disposed of with proper precautions.
3. Gastrocult Developer is an irritant and is flammable. **Avoid contact with eyes and skin.** If contact occurs, rinse promptly with water. See Material Safety Data Sheet for further details.
4. Only use Gastrocult developing solution to develop the Gastrocult test. Do not use Hemocult or Hemocult SENSE Developers or any other developing solution for the Gastrocult test.

B. Helpful Tips

1. Refer to the Product Instructions for additional interpretation help.
2. A color interpretation chart is available upon request.
3. Technical assistance may be obtained by calling: 1(800) 877-6242, or by sending an email to askpcd@beckman.com.

References

See Product Instructions:

Review and Update:

A. Reviewed By: _____

B. Title: _____

C. Review Date: _____



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