

# FECAL ELASTASE

## Orderable - ELAS

Turn Around Time: 30 days

### Alternate Name(s):

Elastase 1

### Specimen:

Random stool

### Collection Information:

Collect a minimum of 5 mL of random stool in a sterile container and freeze before sending.

**This test is available to London Health Sciences Centre patients of Dr. April Price, Dr. Brian Lyttle, Dr. Heather Racz, Dr. James Lewis, Dr. Dirk Bock, Dr. Kevin Bax, Dr. Dhandapani Ashok and Dr. Nadeem Hussain. Specimens from outside laboratories will not be processed**

### Reference Ranges:

Suggestive of Pancreatic Insufficiency:	Suggestive of Pancreatic Sufficiency:
<100 µg/g	>100 µg/g

### Interpretive Comments:

Fecal elastase refers to the testing of the concentration of the pancreatic elastase-1 enzyme found in fecal matter with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Results of this test can give a good indication of exocrine pancreatic status and is less invasive and expensive than the current "gold standard", secretin-cholecystokinin test.<sup>1</sup> Levels of fecal elastase lower than 200 µg / g of stool indicate an exocrine insufficiency. Correlations between low levels and chronic pancreatitis<sup>2</sup> and cancer<sup>3</sup> have been reported.



**Laboratory:**  
Core Lab



**Requisition:**  
GENERAL LABORATORY  
REQUISITION



**Method of Analysis:**  
ELISA



**Test Schedule:**  
Referred out Monday-  
Thursday



**Referred Out Location:**  
[In-Common Laboratories](#)



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## References:

1. Molinari, I., et al., *Fecal chymotrypsin and elastase-1 determination on one single stool collected at random: diagnostic value for exocrine pancreatic status*. Clin Biochem, 2004. **37**(9): p. 758-76
2. Fecal Elastase 1 ELISA For Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency: Comparison With ERCP-Morphology And Fecal Fat Excretion
3. Role of Fecal Elastase 1 in Pancreatic Cancer: A Pilot Study

## Comments:

Referred out Monday – Thursday

## Storage and Shipment:

The specimen must be shipped, and should be kept frozen until shipping and sent on dry ice.