

Pinworm Paddle Collection Technique

The Falcon Pinworm paddle is recommended for easy collection and examination of the parasite *Enterobius vermicularis*, also known as the Pinworm. The collection kit consists of a clear plastic paddle with handle and a plastic tube with cap. The paddle is coated on one side with a sticky adhesive. Pinworm eggs, if present, will stick to the paddle and be seen under the microscope during examination.

Timing: The best time to collect specimens is when the patient is resting and not active. This is typically a few hours after the person has retired to bed (9 - 12 pm) or in the morning immediately **before** bathing and bowel movement. Specimens should be obtained before therapy has begun. Collection on 3 different days provides the best chance of detecting the parasite.

Collection Procedure:

1. Hold the paddle by the cap and remove it from the tube.
2. Gently separate the buttocks and press the sticky surface of the paddle against several areas of the perianal region. After collection, do not touch the sticky area of the paddle with your fingers.
3. Replace the paddle in the tube and transport to the laboratory within 24 hours. If transport will be delayed more than 24 hours, refrigerate the specimen.
4. Label the specimen container with patient's full name, date of birth, and date/time of collection. Place the collection tube into a plastic bag before transport. Wash hands.
5. Contact the Microbiology Laboratory at St Joseph Hospital with any questions.
603-884-4216.