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Section: Parasitology Manual	Subject Title: Turnaround Times	
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TURNAROUND TIMES (TAT)

The Parasitology Laboratory is open on a weekly basis from Monday to Friday. An on-call service is provided – only for malaria requests – on weekends and statutory holidays.

1. STAT SPECIMENS

All malaria bloods are considered STAT. A joint malaria protocol exists between the Hematology Department, Toronto Medical Laboratories and the Toronto Medical Laboratories/Mt. Sinai Hospital Department of Microbiology. All malaria samples are screened by the Hematology Lab or by the Rapid Response Labs at both Toronto General and Toronto Western Hospitals and are resulted within 2 hours. All screening results are confirmed by a qualified Microbiology Technologist within 18 hours.

2. SPECIMENS REPORTED WITHIN 24 HOURS.

- Skin snips for microfilaria
- Urine sediments for *S. haematobium*
- Aspirates/fluids (i.e. liver aspirates, duodenal aspirates, CSF, etc.)
- Bloods for microfilaria and Trypanosomes
- Adult worm identifications
- direct smears from Skin Scrapings for *Leishmania*
- Dark Field requests
- Schisto Hatch
- Pinworm preps

3. SPECIMENS REPORTED WITHIN 48 TO 72 HOURS

- *Acanthamoeba* culture – preliminary reading
- *Strongyloides* agar cultures

4. SPECIMENS REPORTED WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS

- Stool for Ova and Parasite (including *Cryptosporidium/Cyclospora*)
- Slit skin smears for leprosy

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5. SPECIMENS REQUIRING MORE THAN 5 DAYS

- *Acanthamoeba* cultures held for 7 to 10 days
- *Leishmania* cultures held for a total of 21 days (if negative), checked at 10 and 14 days
- Stool O&P samples requesting microsporidium are sent to the Public Health Laboratory for testing. TAT is approximately 10 days.
- Samples requesting worm/insect identification are also sent to the Public Health Laboratory for testing. TAT is approximately 10 days.

REFERENCES

National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. Protection of Workers from Infectious Disease Transmitted by Blood and Tissue. Proposed Guideline M29-P1 National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, Villanova, PA 1987

National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. Clinical laboratory Waste Management. Tentative Guideline GP5-T National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, Villanova, PA 1991

National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. Protection of Workers from Infectious Disease Transmitted by Blood, Body Fluids and Tissue. Tentative Guideline M29-T2 National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, Villanova, PA 1991