

Sample Collection for : **"Threadworm"**

Investigation of suspected 'threadworm' (*Enterobius vermicularis*)

SAMPLING

Threadworm ova are rarely found in faeces. If infestation is suspected the correct specimen is a 'sellotape' smear. As the female worm lays her eggs at night specimens are best taken first thing in the morning (before the patient washes or defecates).

The eggs are collected by pressing against the peri-anal area with the sticky side of a piece of clear sellotape. This is then stuck down firmly onto a glass microscope slide. The slide can then be transported to the laboratory, together with the request form, in a specimen bag.

The alternative method is to moisten the peri-anal area with sterile saline and then gently swab the area. Place the swab in a sterile white top 30ml "universal" container with a drop of saline.

Specimen Container

Glass Microscope slides and carry cases can be requested by contacting the Microbiology department on 01622 224040.