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Norwalk virus DNA

General:

These viruses belong to the family of caliciviridae, synonym noroviruses which were discovered in 1972. Norwalk-like viruses can be differentiated into two genogroups (GG1 and GG2). They are common and responsible for a huge part of the virally conditioned GIT disorders in children (30%) and in adults (50%).

Infection: The viruses are excreted in stool. The transmission is predominantly fecal-orally and thus mainly from individual to individual. But also polluted food, drinks and objects must be considered as source of infection, a transmission by aerosols is discussed. The infectiosity is very high, smallest virus quantities are sufficient to result in disease. Incubation period: between 12-48 hours. Patients are infectious up to 48 hours after the appearance of the symptoms.

Symptoms: The syndrome starts acutely with vomiting, strong diarrheas (approximately 5-8 days), with considerable liquid loss, stomach ache, nausea, headache and muscle pains as well as slightly increased temperature. Rarely high fever. Possibly steatorrhea and short-time malabsorption are observed. Slighter courses or even courses without any symptoms can occur.

Therapy: Out-patient treatment is sufficient. Compensation of liquid loss. A causal antiviral therapy is not available.

Indication:	Suspicion of viral gastric enteritis
Material:	5 g stool, frozen
TAT:	5-7 days*
Method:	PCR
Note:	see also **Diarrhea**

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/

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