

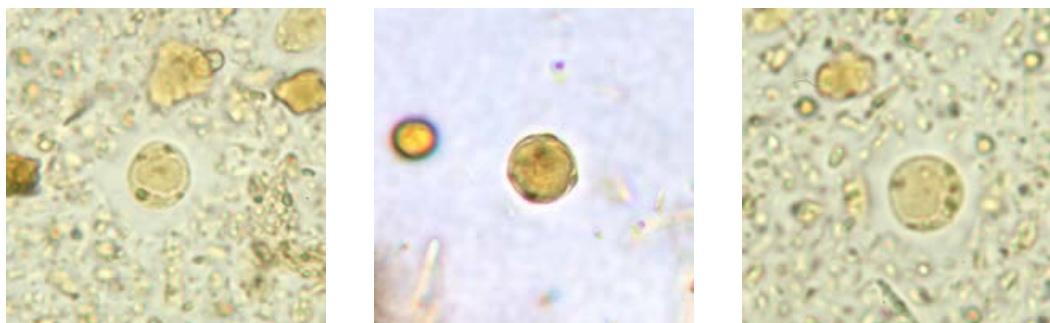
Blastocystis hominis

Basic guidelines

- A. Multiple stool samples (at least 3) should be tested before a negative result is reported.
- B. To maximize recovery of cyst-like forms, stool samples in formalin, or other fixatives, should be concentrated prior to microscopic examination (e.g., 10 min at 500 × g when using the formalin-ethyl-acetate concentration procedure).
- C. Choice of diagnostic techniques depends on available equipment and reagents, experience, and considerations of time and cost.

1. Wet mount

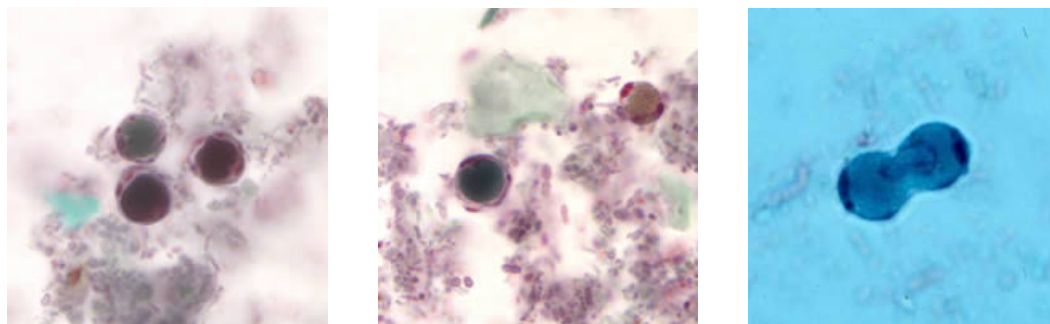
Blastocystis hominis is not easily seen in concentrated wet mount preparations. It is generally round and measures approximately 6 to 40 µm. Cyst-like forms have a large central body that looks like a large vacuole surrounded by small, multiple nuclei.



Blastocystis hominis cyst-like forms stained with iodine.

2. Trichrome stain

In trichrome stained smears, the large central body is usually green to gray in color. The inclusion bodies in the cytoplasm stain bright to dark red. Because of its uncertain pathogenicity, *B. hominis* should be reported when found in stool specimens.



Blastocystis hominis cyst-like forms stained with trichrome.

Dividing *Blastocystis hominis* cyst-like form.