



## Overview

Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) affect nearly 2 million people in the U.S. Both diseases cause inflammation of the intestine, but have different clinical presentations and treatment options. CD usually affects the lower portion of the small intestine but can affect any part of the digestive tract. Inflammation is asymmetrical and segmental and extends deep into affected tissues. In UC, inflammation is confined to the colon and rectum, is symmetrical, uninterrupted from the rectum proximally, and involves inflammation of the top layers of the lining of the colon and rectum.

Because many of the symptoms of CD and UC are similar, diagnosis can be difficult, time consuming and invasive. About 10-12% of IBD cases are initially unclassifiable, but over time, approximately half are eventually classified as CD or UC.<sup>1-3</sup>

Antibodies (IgG and IgA) to *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (a yeast) are found to be significantly more prevalent in patients with CD (60-70%) compared to patients with UC (10-15%) or healthy controls (0-5%).<sup>1</sup> IgG and IgA *S. cerevisiae* antibodies are highly specific for Crohn's disease (95% -100%)<sup>2</sup>, and therefore, may be clinically useful in helping to differentiate between CD and UC.

## Clinical Utility

- Help differentiate CD from UC: Specificity = 95% (if positive for either IgG or IgA);  
Specificity = 100% (if positive for IgG & IgA)<sup>2</sup>
- Sensitivity: CD (60-70%), UC (10-15%), Controls (0-5%)<sup>1</sup>
- Assess first-degree relatives of CD patients; *S. cerevisiae* antibodies are found in about 20% of healthy relatives<sup>4</sup>
- Assist in the evaluation and classification of patients at an earlier stage of disease
- Assist in determining appropriate therapeutic interventions

## Ordering Information and Specimen Requirements

Test Code	Test Name	Specimen Requirements	Set up Schedule	Assay Time
1445	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> IgG & IgA Antibodies DetectR™	1 mL Serum; Ambient, Refrigerated or Frozen	Tuesday Thursday	1-5 days
<b>Specify "Send <i>S. cerevisiae</i> Antibodies DetectR™ to Specialty Laboratories"</b> <b>For immediate attention and sample pick-up, call 800-421-4449</b>				

## Methodology

## Related Tests

**1866 PAN-ANCA Evaluation**

**1868 PAN-ANCA PLUS**

**1862 ANCA**

## References

1. Rutgeerts P, Vermeire S. Clinical value of the detection of antibodies in the serum for diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease. *Gastroenterology* 1998;115:1006-22.
2. Ruemmele FM, Targan SR, Levy G, et al. Diagnostic accuracy of serological assays in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease. *Gastroenterology* 1998;115:822-9.
3. Panaccione R, Sandborn WJ. Is antibody testing for inflammatory bowel disease clinically useful? *Gastroenterology* 1999;116:1001-8.
4. Sendid B, Quinton JF, Charrier G, et al. Anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* mannan antibodies in familial Crohn's disease. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1998;93:1306-10.

**Be sure to visit our Web site at [www.specialtylabs.com](http://www.specialtylabs.com)**