Faecal Occult Blood Testing

SNP utilises an automated analyser, the OC Sensor Diana, to detect faecal occult blood (FOBT).

The OC Sensor Diana is an immunochemical based FOBT method utilising antibodies against human haemoglobin. Appropriate collection is required in dedicated green topped collection devices available through all Collection Centres. A series of 3 collections is recommended. Patient collection notes are available at:


The sampling bottles can be held and delivered after the last sample has been collected, or may be delivered to the Collection Centre after each individual collection. Each sampling bottle must be received by the Collection Centre within 5 days of collection to ensure accurate and reproducible results.

The result provided is quantitative and the cut off selected for positivity is 50 ng/mL.

Figure 1 illustrates that this cut-off has been selected in favour of sensitivity for detection of colonic polyps which may be precursors for the development of colorectal cancer. Whilst the negative predictive value of a test for colonic pathology is very good, the positive predictive value is relatively poor and may include normal healthy individuals.