

Faecal Occult Blood Testing

The Faecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) is an immunochemical method which utilises antibodies against human haemoglobin to detect minimal amounts of blood in bowel motions.

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

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