DR. KARA FITZGERALD
FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE

For the GI360, how are the results of PCR analysis reported?

Two different ways based on the nature of the specific analytes:

Microbiota Abundance and Diversity (Dysbiosis Test)

For ease of comparison to normobiosis, patients' results are reported as standard deviations (SD) from the reference value. Results for an analyte are plotted on a scale of -3 SD (very low) to +3 SD (very high); no deviation from normobiosis = 0 SD (normal). Uniquely, the GI360 uses a well-defined normobiotic reference population (n > 1,000) as applied in numerous peer-reviewed publications.

Gastrointestinal Pathogens

For the F.D.A. cleared PCR analysis of pathogenic bacteria, viruses and parasites, results are reported as positive or negative. Pathogenesis of most enteric pathogens is not dependent on quantity, and any detectable amount of pathogen is indicative of clinical infection. There is no established low-level of pathogenic organisms such as *Vibrio*, *Salmonella* or *Shigella* that is acceptable or not associated with disease. Due to the high sensitivity of the PCR analysis, consideration of patient symptomatology should always be considered when making decisions about treatment; residual microbial DNA may be present post *active* infection. Retesting for treatment efficacy is recommended no sooner than 3 weeks.