A 32-year-old female presents to your clinic with complaints of chronic abdominal pain, fatigue, and diarrhea. After a detailed history, you suspect irritable bowel disease, but are also concerned about inflammatory bowel disease. You plan for further work up. What additional laboratory test may help to differentiate IBS from an inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn’s disease?

A. Tissue Transglutaminase IgA  
B. Stool testing for Clostridium difficile  
C. Fecal calprotectin  
D. Fecal elastase

**Answer: C**

According to the most recent ACG guideline, fecal calprotectin is a useful test that should be considered to help differentiate the presence of IBD from non-inflammatory disease such as IBS. Fecal calprotectin is a calcium binding protein derived from neutrophils that plays a role in regulation of inflammation. This can also be used for monitoring of disease activity and response to treatment. While tTG IgA, C diff, and fecal elastase might all be useful in the work up of a patient with these symptoms, they would not help to differentiate IBS from IBD.