DANBURY HOSPITAL
A Higher Level of Care

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Changes in testing for Ehrlichia and Babesia

Effective immediately, Ehrlichia smears and Babesia smears will no longer be available. More accurate methods of detection of these infections, including PCR and serology, are available at the Danbury Hospital Laboratory:

PCR: PCR techniques allow for direct detection of pathogen-specific DNA from a patient's whole blood during the acute phase of the disease.
Ordering mnemonics:

- Ehrlichia PCR
- Babesia PCR

Serology: Serological tests detect IgM or IgG antibodies to these infections.
Ordering mnemonics:

- Ehrlichia Ab
- Babesia Ab

Questions regarding these orders may be directed to Dr. Edwards at 203-739-7527.

Hours of operation change in Patient Service Center at 79 Sandpit Rd

Effective Monday, July 11, 2011, hours of operation at the Patient Service Center at 79 Sandpit Rd will be 6:30am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Hours of operation for Saturdays will continue to be 6:30 am to 1 pm.

Specimen Handling for HER2 and ER/PR breast biopsies

The CAP standard for fixation time for all breast biopsies for HER2 and ER/PR testing states, "specimens subject to these tests should be fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin for at least 6 hours, up to a maximum of 48 hours for HER2 testing and 72 hours for estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor testing." When the biopsy procedure is performed in the doctor's office on Thursday, please call Central Processing at 203-739-7306 for Stat specimen pick up so that the specimen arrives in the laboratory on Thursday before 5PM.

Allergy testing available

Beginning mid-July, allergy testing will be performed Monday through Friday in the Core area of the Danbury Hospital Laboratory utilizing the Siemens 3gAllergy detection system on the Immulite analyzer. This system incorporates a 3rd generation allergen-specific IgE which is validated according to the NCCLS/LA20-A guidelines. The IgE has a 0.1kU/L sensitivity detection limit, 3.5 times lower than other allergen-specific IgE assays and has a functional sensitivity of 0.2kU/L. Reference ranges will be printed on reports in both Standard and Extended ranges. A solid phase, 2-step chemiluminescent immunoassay exploits liquid phase kinetics in a bead format.

Allergens may be ordered individually or in panels. Total IgE is performed with each allergen or panel. Panels include:

Childhood	**Food**	**N.E Upper & Lower Respiratory**	**Nuts**	**Venom/Insect**
Milk	Milk	Cat dander	Almond	Honey bee
Wheat	Wheat	Cockroach	Basil nut	Paper wasp
Peanut	Peanut	Dog dander	Cashew	Yellow jacket
Soybean	Soybean	Silver birch	Hazel nut	Cockroach
Cod fish	Codfish	Mold	Peanut	Yellow hornet
Egg white	Clam	Common ragweed	Pecan	White faced hornet
Cat Dander	Maize (corn)	House dustmite	Pine nut	
House dustmite	Scallop	Elm	Pistachio	
Cockroach	Shrimp	Lamb's quarters	Walnut	
Dog dander	Walnut	Maple		
Mold	Egg white	Oak		
		Orchard grass		
		White ash		

Additional allergens are available and may be ordered individually. Please refer to the requisition specific for allergy testing for a complete list of those tests.

Questions regarding allergy testing may be forwarded to Dr. Leonel Edwards at 203-739-7527.

References:

1-Mirhosseini, MD, Miles, Bal, MD, Tricia, Accurate Allergy Diagnosis-a Worldwide Problem; In Vitro Allergen-Specific IgE Testing-a Solution, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, Inc.,
2-Immulite 2000 3gAllergy ™ Specific IgE Universal Kit package insert, PIL2KUN-22, 2009-03-19.

"Previous issues of Technically Speaking can be accessed at
http://www.danburyhospital.org/About-Us/Publications/Technically-Speaking.aspx