

Technically Speaking

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Improved Turnaround Time for Immunology Tests with New BioPlex System

The BioRad BioPlex 2200 system was recently implemented in the Danbury Hospital immunology laboratory. The BioPlex is a fully automated, random access analyzer that utilizes multiplex flow immunoassay technology. The following tests that were previously performed by manual methods in batch mode once per week will now be performed daily Monday-Saturday:

- Measles IgG, Mumps IgG and Varicella IgG
- ANA autoantibodies (SSA, SSB, Jo1, Scl 70, Smith, RNP, Centromere B, Chromatin, Ribosomal P and dsDNA)
- ANCA autoantibodies (MPO and PR3)
- GBM Ab (Glomerular Basement Membrane Antibody)
- CCP (Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide)
- CMV (IgG and CMV IgM)
- EBV Panel (IgG VCA, IgM VCA, EBNA)

The new BioPlex dsDNA test is a quantitative assay that is calibrated against the World Health Organization (WHO) Wo/80 dsDNA standard. Therefore, please note that that reference values for dsDNA have changed as follows:

Negative: ≤ 4 IU/mL

Equivocal: 5-9 IU/mL

Positive: ≥ 10 IU/mL

Questions may be directed to Nancy Critelli, Technical Specialist, at 203-739-7424.

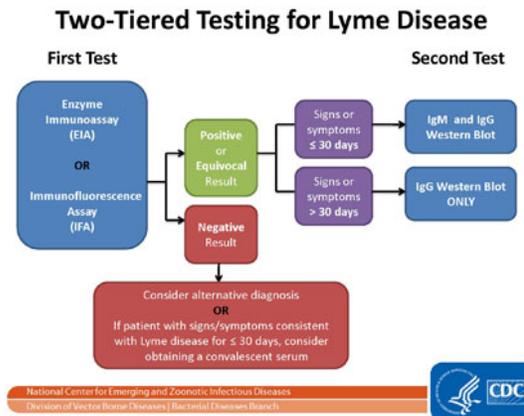
Lyme and C6 Peptide Reflex Panels: “Acute” and “Non-Acute”

The Danbury Hospital laboratory is introducing “Acute” and “Non-Acute” reflex test panels for Lyme and C6 Peptide. All reflex panels will begin with an initial screening test – either an enzyme-linked fluorescence assay (ELFA) for antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme Reflex panels) or an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for antibodies to C6 peptide (C6 peptide panels); however, the Western blot reflex test(s) that will be performed when “positive” or “equivocal” screen results are obtained will depend on whether the acute or non-acute option is ordered.

If one of the “acute” reflex panels is ordered and the Lyme ELFA or C6 Peptide ELISA screen is positive or equivocal, both IgG and IgM Western Blot second-tier tests will be performed. If one of the “non-acute” reflex panels is ordered, a positive or equivocal screen will reflex to only the IgG Western Blot. This is consistent with current CDC recommendations that advise against using the IgM Western Blot test for patients with symptoms of greater than 30 days duration due to its high false-positive rate in these patients.

In summary, the “Acute” Lyme and C6 reflex panels should be used only for patients with symptoms of less than 30 days duration; please order the “Non-Acute” panels for other patients.

Questions may be directed to Nancy Critelli at 203-739-7424 or Dr. Salvador Sena at 203-739-7622.



References:

1. Seriburi V et al, High frequency of false positive IgM immunoblots for *Borrelia burgdorferi* in clinical practice. Clin Microbiol Infect 2012; 18:1236-40.
2. Lyme Disease Frequently Asked Questions. <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/faq/index.html#pain>

Revised Supply Requisitions

We have developed a new supply order form that accurately reflects the supplies that may be ordered for client use. A fax number, 203-739-8605, has also been provided for clients to submit supply requests.

Please note that the CMS Stark Law prohibits us from distributing the following supplies to any of our clients:

- Alcohol Preps
- Band-Aids
- Needle Disposal Boxes
- Printer Paper
- Toner Cartridges

Our couriers began distributing the new forms in August. Please discard any old forms and immediately start using the new ones. Questions may be directed to Client Service Representative, Sandra Smith at 203-739-7800.