
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: MALARIA, RAPID ANTIGEN TEST

General Information

Lab Order Codes: RMAL

Synonyms: BinaxNOW® Malaria Test; Malaria Antigen test; Rapid test for Plasmodium; Rapid Antigen Test for Malaria

CPT Codes: 87899 – Plasmodium falciparum
87899 – Plasmodium vivax

Test Includes: Antigen testing for Plasmodium falciparum as well as pan-malarial antigen that is shared by other Plasmodium species causing human malaria.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for providing a rapid result in diagnosing malaria.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: 7 days a week, 24 hours per day

Turnaround Time: 2 hours

Special Instructions: Rapid antigen testing should be followed up with examination of thick and thin peripheral blood smear.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container: EDTA Lavender top tube or EDTA Lavender Microtainer®.

Draw Volume: Lavender (EDTA) 2 mL Vacutainer tube: Minimum fill volume of **1 mL** is required. Allow the tube to fill until the vacuum is exhausted, and blood flow ceases.
Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer tube: Minimum of **0.5 mL** is required. To be used for neonates, collected volumes <1.0 mL, or when a capillary (skin puncture) collection is required

Processed Volume:	Same as Draw Volume
Collection:	Venipuncture of Capillary collection
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Do Not centrifuge. Test is done on whole blood
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range:	Negative for Plasmodium antigen
Critical Values:	Positive for Malarial parasite
Limitations:	<p>A negative test does not exclude infection with malaria, particularly at low levels of parasitemia.</p> <p>Positive test results should also be verified by examination of thick and thin peripheral blood smears.</p>
Methodology:	The BinaxNOW® Malaria Test is an immunochromatographic membrane assay that uses monoclonal antibodies to detect Plasmodium falciparum antigen and pan – malarial (an antigen shared by Plasmodium species causing human malaria) in venous and capillary whole blood specimens.
Contraindications:	<p>This test has not been established for monitoring the treatment of malaria. Residual plasmodium antigen may be detected for several days following the elimination of the parasite by anti-malaria treatment.</p> <p>This test is not intended for use in screening asymptomatic populations.</p>
References:	BinaxNOW® Malaria Package Insert
Updates:	4/2/2025: updated volume requirements