
Lab Dept: Serology

Test Name: COLD AGGLUTININ

General Information

Lab Order Codes: COAM

Synonyms: Cold Agglutinin Titer, Serum

CPT Codes: 86157 – Cold agglutinin; titer

Test Includes: Cold agglutinin titer

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful in the evaluation of suspected cold agglutinin syndrome. It is not specific for *Mycoplasma pneumonia* and is not recommended to diagnose *Mycoplasma pneumonia* infections. It is useful for supporting the diagnosis of primary atypical pneumonia, infection with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, hemolytic anemia, some viral diseases, and infectious diseases such as staphylococemia, influenza, and tuberculosis.

Lab Testing Sections: Serology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Clinic Laboratories (Test: CATTR)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 - 3 days

Special Instructions: **Do Not** refrigerate specimen before processing. Use a warm pack to keep the specimen at 37°C prior to and after collecting.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Red top tube

Draw Volume: 12 mL (Minimum: 3 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 4 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) serum

Collection: Routine venipuncture

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Don't refrigerate prior to separation of serum from red cells.

While the specimen is clotting, pre-warm the centrifuge to 37°C to ensure a warmed environment. Centrifuge specimen at 37°C within one hour of collection or as soon as blood clots. Remove serum from red cells IMMEDIATELY after blood clots and aliquot into screw-capped round bottom plastic vial.

Store and ship serum specimen refrigerated. Forward promptly.

Serum stable refrigerated (preferred) or frozen for 7 days, ambient for 72 hours.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Titer:	Interpretation:
>64	Elevated
>1000	May be indicative of hemolytic anemia
Titers above 64 are considered elevated, but hemolytic anemia resulting from cold-reactive autoagglutinins rarely occurs unless the titer is 1000 or above. Titers below 1000 may be obtained when the autoantibody has a different specificity (e.g., anti-i) or if the cold agglutinin is of the less-common low-titer, high-thermal-amplitude type.	

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Normal individuals may have low levels of cold agglutinins.

Methodology: Titration/Red Cell Agglutination

References: [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) December 2023

Updates: 6/1/2022: Updated Mayo order code.

12/27/2023: Updated reference range and interpretation per current reference lab catalog information, updated turnaround time, added specimen stability. Clarified processing information.