**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:** 1 hour after receipt in the laboratory  
**Special Instructions:** Rapid antigen testing should be followed up with examination of thick and thin peripheral blood smear.

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood  
**Container:** Lavender (EDTA) top tube, Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer®.  
**Draw Volume:**  
- 2 mL blood in a 2 mL Lavender top tube  
- OR  
- 0.5 mL in a EDTA Microtainer®  
**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume  
**Collection:** Fill to mark on tube or Microtainer®. Mix thoroughly by gentle inversion.
**Special Processing:**
Lab Staff: **Do Not** centrifuge

**Patient Preparation:**
None

**Sample Rejection:**
Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:**
Negative for Plasmodium antigen
Positives will be called

**Critical Values:**
N/A

**Limitations:**
A negative test does not exclude infection with malaria, particularly at low levels of parasitemia. As is often done in serial microscopy another sample can be collected and retested.

Positive test results should also be verified by examination of thick and thin peripheral blood smears.

**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:**
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.

This test is not intended for use in screening asymptomatic populations.

**References:**

Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Treatment of Malaria (Guidelines for Clinicians), June 28, 2004


Review Criteria for Assessment of Rheumatoid Factor (Rf) IN Vitro Diagnostic Devices Using Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay (EIA), Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA), Particle Agglutination Tests, and Laser and Rate Nephelometry. FDA Guidance Document; February 21, 1997


BinaxNOW® Malaria Package Insert