
Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: CRYPTOCOCCUS ANTIGEN

General Information

Lab Order Codes: CRAG (serum)
CRAGC (CSF)

Synonyms: Cryptococcal Antigen

CPT Codes: 87899 – Infectious agent antigen immunoassay, not otherwise specified

Test Includes: Screen for cryptococcal antigen and titer, if positive.

Logistics

Lab Testing Sections: Microbiology - Sendouts

Referred to: Fairview University Diagnostic Laboratories- Microbiology (Fairview Code: CRYPTA)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: Performed Monday - Friday 07:30 – 15:00; results are reported within two days.

Special Instructions:

- **Specimen site** and **date/time of collection** are required for specimen processing.
- Consult Microbiology medical director if repeat titers (i.e.: >1 per week) are desired.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood or CSF

Container: Blood: red top (plain, no gel) tube

CSF: sterile container

Volume: Blood: 4 mL (Minimum: 1.2 mL)

CSF: 1 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL)

Collection:	<p>CSF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disinfect skin site with 2% tincture of iodine. 2. Insert needle with stylet at L3 – L4, L4 – L5, or L5 – S1 interspace. 3. Upon reaching the subarachnoid space, remove the stylet and collect 1 – 2 mL of fluid into each of 2 sterile CSF tubes. 4. Transport to Microbiology immediately. <p>Blood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleanse venipuncture site with 70% alcohol. 2. Draw 4 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood in a red top tube. 3. Transport to laboratory.
Special Processing:	<p>CSF: Processing dependant on testing requested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If specimen is for cryptococcal antigen only, store frozen • If specimen is to be cultured, store in refrigerator, but must arrive within 24 hours. <p>Blood: Centrifuge and aliquot 1.3 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) serum into a screw-capped round bottom vial. Store at refrigerated temperatures.</p>
Transport/Storage:	<p>Transport specimens to Children’s laboratory at room temperature.</p> <p>Lab Staff: Ship and store specimens at refrigerated temperatures.</p> <p>If a culture is ordered on CSF, store refrigerated and ship at room temperature. Fairview University must receive the specimen within 72 hours of collection.</p>
Sample Rejection:	<p>Specimens with transit time to the lab exceeding 2 hours after collection; gross hemolysis; lipemia; turbidity; improperly labeled specimen; insufficient volume; external contamination. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing unit will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.</p>

Interpretive

Reference Range:	Negative
Critical Values:	The physician or patient’s nurse will be notified of positive results.
Limitations:	Positive results should be confirmed with culture. Although rare, false-positive results have been reported. False-negative results may occur if a low number of organisms are present in the spinal fluid but the culture may be positive as might be seen early in the course of the disease.
Methodology:	Lateral flow
References:	Fairview Diagnostic Laboratories Web Page September 2013

Cook, JH, and M Pezzlo (1992). Specimen receipt and accessioning. Section 1. Aerobic bacteriology, 1.2.1-4. In HD Isenberg (ed) Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook. American Society for Microbiology, Washington DC

Miller, J Michael (1999) A Guide To Specimen Management in Clinical Microbiology, American Society for Microbiology, Washington DC

Miller, J Michael, and HT Holmes (1999) Specimen Collection, Transport, and Storage In PR Murray et al, (ed), Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 7th edition, American Society for Microbiology, Washington DC, pp 33-104

Updates:

9/27/2010: Specimen volume changes.

10/1/2013: CPT update, method change, specimen volume update and transport temp change from frozen to refrigerated.

12/7/2015: Order code update for INK to CRAGC