
Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: GROUP A STREP DNA BY PCR

General Information

Lab Order Codes: GASD

Synonyms: Streptococcus Group A PCR; Beta strep group A PCR; Throat, group A strep only

CPT Codes: 87651 – Streptococcus, group A, amplified probe technique

Test Includes: Detection of group A strep by PCR using throat specimens from patients suspected of having streptococcal pharyngitis. This assay targets the *Streptococcus pyogenes* exotoxin B gene (speB). If other organisms are suspected, refer to [Throat Culture, Routine](#).

Logistics

Test Indications: Patients suspected of having streptococcal pharyngitis.

Lab Testing Sections: Molecular Diagnostics, Mpls campus only

Phone Number: 612-813-7103

Test Availability: Daily, Monday - Friday, twice per day; Saturday and Sunday, once per day

Turnaround Time: 8 – 24 hours

Special Instructions: Requisition must state specific type of specimen and date/time of collection.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Throat

Container: Swabs with or without transport media

Draw Volume: 1 swab

Processed Volume: Same as Draw Volume

Collection: Throat swab
1. Depress tongue with tongue depressor.
2. Sample the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and inflamed areas with a sterile swab.
3. Place swab in transport medium.

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| Transport/Storage: | Transport to the Laboratory at room temperature. If a delay is anticipated, refrigerate specimen at 4°C. Specimens are stable at room temperature for 1 day and 5 days at refrigerated temperature (2 – 8°C). |
| Patient Preparation: | None |
| Sample Rejection: | Specimen not submitted in appropriate transport container; improperly labeled specimen. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the patient's caregiver will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded. |

Interpretive

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| Reference Range: | Negative: group A streptococci not detected by PCR |
| Critical Values: | N/A |
| Limitations: | This assay does not detect other beta-hemolytic streptococci including group C or group G. If suspected, order Throat Culture, Routine. Group C and G have been associated with pharyngitis and, occasionally, acute nephritis but do not cause rheumatic fever. |
| Methodology: | Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) |
| References: | Red Book (2012):668-680: Group A Streptococcal Infections, American Academy of Pediatrics Miller, J. Michael (1999) A Guide To Specimen Management in Clinical Microbiology, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C, pg 100. E.J. Baron and R.B. Thompson, Jr (2011) Specimen Collection, Transport, and Processing: Bacteriology In J. Versalovic, et al., (ed.), Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11th edition, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C., pg 237 |