
Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: HSV BY PCR, BLOOD

General Information

Lab Order Codes: HSVB

Synonyms: Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) DNA Detection by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Blood; HSV Detection by Real-Time PCR; LightCycler HSV

CPT Codes: 87529 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Herpes simplex virus, amplified probe technique

Test Includes: Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction detection of Herpes Simplex Virus reported as negative or positive for type 1 DNA or type 2 DNA.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for rapid qualitative detection of HSV DNA.

Lab Testing Sections: Microbiology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: LHSV B)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 – 3 day, set up Monday-Saturday

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container: Lavender top (EDTA) tube

Volume: 1 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL)

Collection: Routine blood collection or aseptic collection. Gently invert EDTA tube to mix.

Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Do not centrifuge. Send whole blood at refrigerated temperatures.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Improperly labeled or unlabeled specimen. Unacceptable specimen type. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing station will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.

Interpretive

Reference Range: HSV1 :Negative
HSV2: Negative

This is a qualitative assay; results are reported as either negative or positive for herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1 or HSV type 2, or HSV indeterminate. A result of "HSV type-indeterminate" means that HSV was present in the clinical sample; however, the assay was unable to differentiate between type 1 and type 2. This often results from mutations in the viral genome that occur in a small percentage of HSV strains.

Detection of HSV DNA in clinical specimens supports the clinical diagnosis of infection due to the virus.

Limitations:

- This test is intended for patients with evidence of disseminated disease due to herpes simplex virus (HSV). For patients with localized (eg, skin, genital) disease, a swab of suspect lesions should be collected and submitted for real-time PCR analysis HSV PCR for Other Sources.
- A negative result does not eliminate the possibility of HSV infection.
- Although the reference range is typically "negative" for this assay, viral shedding may be detected in asymptomatic individuals. This assay is only to be used for patients with a clinical history and symptoms consistent with HSV infection, and must be interpreted in the context of the clinical picture. This test should not be used to screen asymptomatic patients.

Methodology: Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction/DNA Probe Hybridization

References: [Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page](#) January 2018