
Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: STREP SCREEN, RAPID

General Information

Lab Order Codes: SSCR

Synonyms: Rapid Strep Screen; Screen for group A *Streptococcus*, Rapid; Beta Strep group A Screen; Group A Strep, Rapid Antigen Test, Throat; Throat for Rapid Strep Screen

Related information: [Refer to Group A Strep DNA by PCR](#)

CPT Codes: 87430 – Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay technique. Qualitative or semiquantitative multiple step method; Streptococcus, group A

Test Includes: Detection of group A streptococcal antigen; if negative, PCR will be performed with an additional charge.

Logistics

Lab Testing Sections: Microbiology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-5866

STP Lab: 651-220-6555

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 hour

Special Instructions: **Specimen site** and **date/time of collection** are required for processing.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Throat swab

Container: Dual swab transport system

Volume: 2 throat swabs

Collection:

1. Depress tongue with tongue depressor.
2. Sample the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and inflamed areas with sterile swabs.
3. Place swabs in transport medium.

Transport/Storage: Transport to the Microbiology Laboratory immediately at room temperature.

Sample Rejection: Specimen with a transit time exceeding 4 hours after collection; specimen not submitted in appropriate transport container; improperly labeled specimen. 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: No group A streptococcal antigen detected

Limitations: Negative results may be obtained due to low antigen concentration below the sensitivity of this test.

Methodology: Membrane-bound enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA)

Contraindications: Throat cultures are not advised for patients with inflamed epiglottis. Swabbing the epiglottis may precipitate acute respiratory obstruction.

References: 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: 11/20/2011: CPT 87081 removed, no longer associated with this procedure.
10/8/2014: Reflex to PCR instead of culture for negatives.