
Lab Dept: Other Fluids

Test Name: CSF COUNT & DIFFERENTIAL

General Information

Lab Order Codes: CSFC

Synonyms: Spinal Fluid Count; CSF Count; CSF Cell Count

CPT Codes: 89050 - Cell Count, miscellaneous body fluids
89051 - Cell Count, with differential

Test Includes: Color, clarity, RBC, WBC and Differential if WBC >5 cells/mm³

Logistics

Test Indications: Evaluate spinal fluid for the presence of RBC's and WBC's that may be indicative of hemorrhage, meningitis, malignant neoplasms, leukemia or abscess.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 hour

Special Instructions: Specimen must arrive within 1 hour of collection. Indicate source of specimen (shunt or lumbar puncture). **Do Not** send to lab through the pneumatic tube system.

Specimen

Specimen Type: CSF

Container: Screw capped, sterile vial OR plastic syringe, capped

Draw Volume: 1 mL CSF

Processed Volume: Minimum: 0.5 mL CSF

Collection: Routine spinal fluid collection

Special Processing: N/A

Patient Preparation: Aseptic preparation for aspiration

Sample Rejection: Clotted sample; slide will be processed to report most common WBC type; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

Interpretive

Reference Range:

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Appearance: | Clear and colorless | | |
| | Cell Count: | RBC | 0/uL |
| | | WBC (monuclear cells) | 0 – 10/uL |
| Differential: | Cell type | Neonate (%) | >1 Month (%) |
| | Lymphocyte | 20 ± 18 | 62 ± 34 |
| | Macrophage/Monocyte | 77 ± 22 | 36 ± 20 |
| | Neutrophil | 3 ± 5 | 2 ± 5 |
| | Eosinophil | Rare | Rare |

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: N/A

Methodology: Manual counts/differential

References: Kjelsberg C et al (1993) Body Fluids, American Society of Clinical Pathologists Press

Update: 2/14/2005: Critical value for CSF WBC's removed. Previously listed as >10/uL.