Lab Dept: Serology

Test Name: BABESIA MICROTI ANTIBODIES, IgG/IgM

General Information

Lab Order Codes:	BMGM
Synonyms:	Babesia microti IgG and IgM Ab Panel
CPT Codes:	86753 x2 – Protozoa antibody, NOS
Test Includes:	Babesia microti Ab IgG and IgM reported as a titer.

Logistics

Test Indications:	Useful in the diagnosis of babesiosis infection. Human babesiosis infection is transmitted by the bite of an infected Ixodes tick or less frequently from transfusion with blood from an infected donor. Definitive diagnosis is made by identifying intraerythrocytic organisms in peripheral blood. In patients with low parasitemia, antibody detection by IFA is recommended.
Lab Testing Sections:	Serology - Sendouts
Referred to:	Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: 91608/FBAB), forward to Focus Diagnostics Inc.
Phone Numbers:	MIN Lab: 612-813-6280 STP Lab: 651-220-6550
Test Availability:	Daily, 24 hours
Turnaround Time:	1 – 8 days, test performed Monday – Friday
Special Instructions:	N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type:	Blood
Container:	Red top tube
Draw Volume:	3 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) blood
Processed Volume:	1 mL (Minimum: 0.1 mL) serum

Collection: Routine venipuncture

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Serum gel tube is acceptable, but specimen must be poured off. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.

Submitting the minimum specimen volume makes it impossible to repeat the test or perform confirmatory or perform reflex testing. In some situations a minimum specimen solume may result in a QNS (quantity not sufficient) result, requiring a second specimen to be collected.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Titer: IgG	<1:64
Titer: IgM	<1:20

Interpretation: Elevated antibody levels to B. microti indicate exposure to the organism. IgG IFA titers greater than or equal to 1:1024 can be detected in acute phase patients with parasites in blood smears. The IFA assay can be used as a seroepidemiologic tool to study the frequency and distribution of B. microti in endemic areas especially in persons with mixed infections also involving Borrelia burgdorferi.

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: N/A

Methodology: Immunofluorescence Assay (IFA)

References: Mayo Medical Laboratories July 2013

Updates: 7/18/2011: Updated reference range for Babesia microti IgG. Previously listed as <1:16.