
Lab Dept: Serology

Test Name: COLD AGGLUTININ

General Information

Lab Order Codes: COAM

Synonyms: Cold Agglutinin Titer, Serum

CPT Codes: 86157 – Cold agglutinin; titer

Test Includes: Cold agglutinin titer

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful in the evaluation of suspected cold agglutinin syndrome. It is not specific for *Mycoplasma pneumonia* and is not recommended to diagnose *Mycoplasma pneumonia* infections. It is useful for supporting the diagnosis of primary atypical pneumonia, infection with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, hemolytic anemia, some viral diseases, and infectious diseases such as staphylococemia, influenza, and tuberculosis.

Lab Testing Sections: Serology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (Test: CATR)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 2 - 3 days

Special Instructions: **Do Not** refrigerate specimen before processing. Use a warm pack to keep the specimen at 37 degrees C prior to and after collecting.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Red top (plain, no gel) tube

Draw Volume: 12 mL (Minimum: 3 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 4 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) serum

Collection: Routine venipuncture

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Don't refrigerate prior to separation of serum from red cells. Centrifuge specimen at 37degrees C or within 1 hr of collecion, remove serum from red cells IMMEDIATELY after blood clots and aliquot into screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship specimen refrigerated. Forward promptly.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Serum gel tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Titer:	<1:64
Patients with cold agglutinin syndrome usually exhibit a titer value greater that 1:512, with rare cases reported as low as 1:64. Normal individuals often have low levels of cold agglutinins. The test is not a direct measure of clinical significance and must be used in conjunction with other in vitro and in vivo parameters.	

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Normal individuals may have low levels of cold agglutinins.

Methodology: Titration-Red Cell Agglutination at 4 degrees C. Titer is determined by making serial doubling dilutions of the patient's serum in 0.9% saline. Group O indicator red cells are added and the serum-cell mixture is then incubated 20 minutes at 0 degrees C to 5 degrees C, and the titer end point range is determined.

References: [Mayo Medical Laboratory Web Page](#) May 2018

Updates: 5/5/2018: Updated collection volumes.