
Lab Dept: Serology

Test Name: EHRLICHIA CHAFFEENSIS IGG ANTIBODY

General Information

Lab Order Codes: EHGM

Synonyms: E. chaffeensis IgG

CPT Codes: 86666 – Ehrlichia

Test Includes: Reported as a titer.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful in the diagnosis of ehrlichiosis. In seroepidemiological surveys of the prevalence of the infection in certain populations.

Lab Testing Sections: Serology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MML Test: EHRC)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 – 3 days, test performed Monday - Friday

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: SST (Gold, marble or red) tube

Draw Volume: 1.5 mL (Minimum: 1.2 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.4 mL) serum

Collection: Routine venipuncture

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly..

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens; gross hemolysis; gross lipemia; heat inactivated specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Ehrlichia chaffeensis (HME) IgG	<1:64
<p>Interpretation: Serology for IgG may be negative during the acute phase for infection but a diagnostic titer usually appears by the third week after onset.</p> <p>A positive immunofluorescence assay (titer > or =1:64) suggests current or previous infection. In general, the higher the titer, the more likely the patient has an active infection. Four-fold rises in titer also indicate active infection.</p> <p>Previous episodes of ehrlichiosis may produce a positive serology although antibody levels decline significantly during the year following infection.</p>	

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Performance characteristics have not been established for hemolyzed or lipemic specimens.

Methodology: Immunofluorescence Assay (IFA)

References: [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) January 2022

Updates: 10/16/2017: Testing now performed at Mayo, previously forwarded to Focus Laboratories.
1/27/2022: Update minimum volumes per Mayo.