

Chlamydia IgG, Immunofluorescence, Serum

Overview

Useful For Assessing IgG antibody levels to aid in the clinical diagnosis of *Chlamydia pneumoniae* or *Chlamydia psittaci* infections

Testing Algorithm This test includes testing for *Chlamydia pneumoniae* IgG and *Chlamydia psittaci* IgG.

Method Name Micro-Immunofluorescent Antibody (MIF) Assay

NY State Available Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type Serum

Ordering Guidance

For suspected *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection, order either CTRNA / *Chlamydia trachomatis*, Nucleic Acid Amplification, Varies or CGRNA / *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, Nucleic Acid Amplification, Varies.

Specimen Required Specimen Required Collection Container/Tube: Preferred: Serum gel Acceptable: Red top Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial Specimen Volume: 0.3 mL Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.15 mL

Reject Due To

| Gross | Reject |
|-----------------|--------|
| hemolysis | |
| Gross lipemia | Reject |
| Gross icterus | Reject |
| Heat-inactivate | Reject |



Chlamydia IgG, Immunofluorescence, Serum

d specimen

Specimen Stability Information

| Specimen Type | Temperature | Time | Special Container |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Serum | Refrigerated (preferred) | 30 days | |
| | Frozen | 30 days | |

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Members of the family Chlamydiaceae are small, nonmotile, gram-negative, obligate intracellular organisms that grow in the cytoplasm of host cells. While there are at least 9 species within the *Chlamydia* genus, 3 are clinically significant, including *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, and *Chlamydia psittaci*.

The chlamydial life cycle can be divided into 2 distinct phases: an extracellular, nonreplicating, infectious stage and an obligate intracellular, replicating, noninfectious stage. The infectious form, or elementary body (EB), attaches to the target cell membrane and enters the cell via a phagosome. After cell entry, the EB reorganizes into reticulate particles (forming inclusion bodies) and binary fission begins. After 18 to 24 hours, reticulate particles condense to form EBs. These new EBs are released, beginning another infection cycle.

C psittaci is the causative agent of psittacosis, a disease characterized by pneumonia, headache, altered mentation, and hepatosplenomegaly. Psittacosis is acquired by airborne transmission from infected birds.

C pneumoniae (formerly known as Taiwan acute respiratory agent and, more recently, as *Chlamydophila pneumoniae*) causes pneumonia in humans. It is unique because it is a primary pathogen of humans, is spread from human to human, and apparently has no animal or bird host. *C pneumoniae* is responsible for approximately 10% of pneumonia cases.

Reference Values

Chlamydia pneumoniae <1:64

Chlamydia psittaci <1:64

Interpretation

Chlamydia pneumoniae > or =1:512 IgG endpoint titers of 1:512 or more are considered presumptive evidence of current infection.

> or =1:64 and <1:512

A single specimen endpoint titer of 1:64 to 1:512 should be considered evidence of infection at an undetermined time. A second specimen collected 10 to 21 days after the original collection should be tested in parallel with the first. If the second specimen exhibits a titer 1:512 or more or a 4-fold increase over that of the initial specimen, current (acute)



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infection is indicated. Unchanging titers from 1:64 to 1:512 suggest past infection.

<1:64

IgG endpoint titers below 1:64 suggest that the patient does not have a current infection. These antibody levels may be found in patients with either no history of chlamydial infection or those with past infection whose antibody levels have dropped below detectable levels.

C pneumoniae antibody is detectable in 25% to 45% of adults tested.

Chlamydia psittaci

> or =1:64

IgG endpoint titers of 1:64 or more are considered presumptive evidence of current infection.

<1:64

IgG endpoint titers below 1:64 suggest that the patient does not have a current infection. These antibody levels may be found in patients with either no history of chlamydial infection or those with past infection whose antibody levels have dropped below detectable levels.

Cautions

Antichlamydial IgG can persist for years. All results from chlamydial serologies must correlate with clinical history and other data available to the physician.

Specimens collected too early during primary infection may not contain detectable antibodies. If chlamydial infection is suspected, a second specimen should be collected 10 to 21 days later and tested in parallel with the original specimen.

During a primary *Chlamydia* infection, the early antibody response may be cross-reactive with multiple *Chlamydia* species.

This assay does not report antibodies detected against *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Sera from suspected cases of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) should be tested by a Lymphogranuloma Venereum Differentiation Antibody Panel. LGV testing is not performed by Mayo Clinic Laboratories; call 800-533-1710 for assistance in ordering.

Due to the limited sensitivity and specificity of *Chlamydia* serologic tests, patients with suspected *C* trachomatis infection should be tested by a molecular method (eg, CTRNA / Nucleic Acid Amplification, Varies or CGRNA / *Chlamydia* trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Nucleic Acid Amplification, Varies) to evaluate for current/active infection.

Clinical Reference

 Schlossberg D. Psittacosis (due to *Chlamydia psittaci*). In: Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020:2320-2322
Hammerschlag MR, Kohlhoff SA, Gaydos CA. *Chlamydia pneumoniae*. In: Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020:2323-2331

Performance



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Method Description

The microimmunofluorescent antibody assay is a 2-stage "sandwich" procedure. In the first stage, the patient serum is diluted in phosphate-buffered saline, added to appropriate slide wells in contact with the substrate, and incubated. After incubation, the slide is washed in buffered saline to remove unbound serum antibodies. In the second stage, each antigen well is overlaid with fluorescein-labeled antibody to IgG. The slide is incubated, allowing antigen-antibody complexes to react with the fluorescein-labeled anti-IgG. After the slide is washed, dried, and mounted, it is examined using fluorescence microscopy. Positive reactions appear as bright apple-green fluorescent elementary bodies with a background matrix of yolk sac. Semiquantitative endpoint titers are obtained by testing serial dilutions of positive specimens.(Schachter J. Chlamydiae [Psittacosis-Lymphogranuloma Venereum-Trachome Group]. In: Lennette E, Balows A, Hausler W, Shadomy H, eds. Manual of Clinical Microbiology. 4th ed. ASM Press; 1985: 856-861; Smith T. *Chlamydia*. In: Schmidt N, Emmons R, eds. Diagnostic procedures for viral, rickettsial and chlamydial infections. 6th ed. APHA; 1989: 1165-1198)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed Monday, Thursday

Report Available Same day/1 to 4 days

Specimen Retention Time 14 days

Performing Laboratory Location

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Superior Drive

Fees & Codes

Fees

- Authorized users can sign in to <u>Test Prices</u> for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact <u>Customer Service</u> 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification

This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information

86631 x 2

LOINC[®] Information

| | Test ID | Test Order Name | Order LOINC [®] Value |
|--|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
|--|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------|



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| CHLG | Chlamydia IgG, IFA, S | 10848-0 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | |
| Result ID | Test Result Name | Result LOINC [®] Value |
| 619392 | C. pneumoniae IgG | In Process |
| 619393 | C. psittaci IgG | In Process |