

## Overview

### Useful For

Aiding in the diagnosis of neurosyphilis

### Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
VDSFQ	VDRL Titer, CSF	No	No

### Testing Algorithm

If this test is positive, a VDRL titer will be performed at an additional charge.

For more information, see [Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel Algorithm](#).

### Special Instructions

- [Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel Algorithm](#)

### Method Name

Flocculation/Agglutination

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

CSF

### Specimen Required

**Collection Container/Tube:** Sterile vial

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial

**Specimen Volume:** 0.5 mL

**Collection Instructions:** Submit specimen collected in vial 2, if possible. If not, note which vial from which the aliquot was obtained.

### Specimen Minimum Volume

0.2 mL

### Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	Reject
Gross lipemia	Reject

### Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
CSF	Frozen (preferred)	14 days	
	Refrigerated	14 days	

## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

The Venereal Diseases Research Laboratory (VDRL) assay is a nontreponemal serologic test for syphilis that uses a cardiolipin-cholesterol-lecithin antigen to detect reaginic antibodies. The VDRL test performed on cerebrospinal fluid can be used to diagnose neurosyphilis in patients with a prior history of syphilis infection.

The presence of neurosyphilis in untreated patients can be detected by the presence of pleocytosis, elevated protein, and a positive VDRL result.

### Reference Values

Negative

Reference values apply to all ages.

### Interpretation

A positive VDRL result on spinal fluid is highly specific for neurosyphilis.

A single negative VDRL result should not be used to exclude neurosyphilis and repeat testing on a new specimen may be necessary.

Positive results will be titered.

### Cautions

VDRL testing on spinal fluid gives a high percentage of false-negative results.

### Clinical Reference

1. Miller JN. Value and limitations of nontreponemal and treponemal tests in the laboratory diagnosis of syphilis. *Clin Obstet Gynecol.* 1975;18(1):191-203
2. Radolf JD, Tramont EC, Salazar JC. Syphilis (*Treponema pallidum*). In: Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. *Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases.* 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020:2865-2892

## Performance

**Method Description**

The VDRL antigen and spinal fluid are mixed on a 180 RPM rotator. The antigen, a cardiolipin-lecithin coated cholesterol particle, flocculates in the presence of reagin. (US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Communicable Diseases Center, Venereal Disease Program: Manual of Tests for Syphilis. Centers for Disease Control; 1969; Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Monday through Friday

**Report Available**

1 to 4 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

14 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

**Fees & Codes****Fees**

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

**Test Classification**

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

**CPT Code Information**

86592

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
VDSF	VDRL, CSF	5290-2

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
9028	VDRL, CSF	5290-2