

FACT SHEET

Syphilis Serology

Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR, qualitative) 5035

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs a qualitative and semiquantitative nontreponemal flocculation test for the detection of reagin antibodies in human serum and plasma as a screening test in syphilis serology. Reactive test samples will automatically reflex to further confirmation testing.

Specimens accepted for testing:

Serum or EDTA Plasma sample removed from the red cells, free of hemolysis, bacterial contamination, or lipemia. Specimens may be stored up to 5 days at refrigerated temperature

2-8C before processing. If the RPR is reactive, a quantitative titer will automatically be performed. The following test is automatically added to the order.

RPR, quantitative 5040

The RPR titer allows for the correction interpretation of the syphilis test and the automatic addition of the confirmatory test.

Treponemal Passive Particle Agglutination Test (TPPA) 5065 is ordered automatically with a positive RPR qualitative test.

Interpretation

To determine if an active syphilis infection is occurring a patient's syphilis serology status requires consideration of the RPR, the RPR titer and the TPPA at the same time. The following is a general guide to interpretation:

Condition	Signs & Symptoms	RPR	RPR titer	TPPA
Syphilis infection	Primary or secondary syphilis signs (chancre or rash)	Reactive	RPR 1:2- 1:256 range, and higher	Reactive
Past, treated syphilis	No signs or symptoms	Reactive or non-reactive	RPR 1:1, 1:2 occasionally higher	Reactive
Biologic false positive	Autoimmune disease, pregnancy	Reactive	RPR 1:1, 1:2	Non-reactive

CPT Code

- RPR 86592
- RPR titer 86593
- TPPA 86780



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