LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

TEST: POXVIRUS PCR

PRE-APPROVAL
Consultation and testing approval should be coordinated with the communicable disease group for the county where the patient resides.

1. County of San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department
   a. Business hours: (805) 781-5500
   b. After hours: (805) 781-4550
2. Santa Barbara County Disease Prevention
   a. 24/7: (805) 681-5280
3. Ventura County Communicable Disease Office
   a. 24/7: (805) 981-5201

As of June 14, 2022, the CDC requires that a CDC case ID be obtained for all suspect Monkeypox cases that are to undergo laboratory testing. To obtain a CDC case ID number, the communicable disease group can send an email request as follows:

- To: Poxvirus@cdc.gov
- CC: Monkeypox.LRNB@cdph.ca.gov; Monkeypox@cdph.ca.gov; PublicHealth.Lab.Rep@co.slo.ca.us
- Information in request:
  1. Patient initials
  2. Patient date of birth
  3. Sex
  4. Clinical and epidemiologic criteria for testing (e.g., presence of characteristic rash, contact to a known case, etc.)

Once approval and the CDC case ID are obtained, the communicable disease group should contact the laboratory at (805) 781-5510 to relay the CDC case ID and to coordinate the shipment and testing of specimens.

Patients must present with firm, well circumscribed, deep-seated and umbilicated skin lesions associated with smallpox, monkeypox, or other orthopoxviruses (refer to: www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox). Extra precautions will need to be taken if smallpox (Variola virus) is suspected.

TEST DESCRIPTION
The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory performs both orthopoxvirus and non-variola orthopoxvirus PCR assays. The orthopoxvirus PCR assay detects DNA from many orthopoxviruses including variola, vaccinia, cowpox, monkeypox, camelpox, ectromelia, and gerbilpox viruses. The non-variola orthopox PCR detects DNA from non-variola orthopoxviruses, including vaccinia, cowpox, monkeypox and ectromelia viruses. Results of these assays are for the presumptive identification orthopoxvirus DNA. Specimens that test positive for orthopoxvirus nucleic acid are considered presumptive for an orthopox and additional specimen(s) will be referred to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) for confirmatory testing.
Sensitivity and Specificity
Performance characteristics for these orthopoxvirus PCR tests have been determined by the CDC.

SPECIMENS ACCEPTED FOR TESTING

1. Acceptable specimens: Dry swabs (nylon, polyester, or Dacron) of skin lesions placed in separate sterile containers. The same lesion should be sampled with two swabs and each swab placed in a separate sterile container. The duplicate swab will be used for reference testing.

2. Store and transport at refrigerated temperature (4°C) if shipping in 24-72 hours; otherwise, store dry swabs at -80°C.

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