

FACT SHEET

Enterovirus PCR

Test 6300

Test Description:

Enterovirus PCR is a reverse- transcription polymerase reaction (RT-PCR) test designed to detect the enterovirus group. However, due to homology of the ribonucleic acid (RNA) sequences of certain rhinovirus types, the Enterovirus PCR assay may produce a positive signal for certain rhinoviruses, and possibly some parechoviruses.

Enteroviruses (designated name because they replicate in the human GI tract. are from the same family as common cold viruses (rhinoviruses). They cause a variety of illness including respiratory infections, hand foot and mouth disease and viral meningitis every spring through fall. The EVD68 strain has been causing respiratory infections in patients across the country; those with asthma are experiencing the most severe symptoms. There has been much smaller number of children experiencing the nervous system. It is expected that this assay will detect Enterovirus 71, an agent associated with out breaks of severe neurologic illness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Typical symptoms of the virus are runny nose, coughing, wheezing, fever and other symptoms are typical of the common cold. In the more severe cases, children have shortness of breath and difficulty breathing.

Sensitivity:

Based on reports of similar RT-PCR assay the clinical sensitivity of the assay will vary according to the specimen type.70-80% for CSF, 85-100% for respiratory specimens

Sensitivity:

Based on reports of similar RT-PCR assays, it is expected that certain rhinoviruses and parecho virus may elicit a positive signal

Specimens:

Acceptable Specimens: CSF, Respiratory samples (nasal or pharyngeal swabs and tracheal aspirates, bronchial alveolar lavage.)

Transport in M4 or VTM @ 4° C within 72 hours then freeze at -20 or lower if specimen is to be stored for longer periods.

CPT code: 87798



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