



Lab Update

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Laboratory Phone: 585-LABS

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LabUpdate is a periodic publication of the Clinical Laboratories of UC Health. By way of this publication, lab users are provided: 1) updated operational information relevant to the practice of laboratory medicine within UC Health facilities, and 2) didactic material generally applicable to laboratory medicine.

LAB UPDATE

UCMC Clinical Laboratory

If you are interested in the on site availability of a particular test, please contact the Laboratory Client Services Department at 585-LABS or via email to Jenny Ford at jennifer.ford@uchealth.com.

MICROBIOLOGY

Aspergillus Galactomannan Testing

Aspergillus Galactomannan testing is a useful aid in the diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis and assessing patient response to therapy. Invasive aspergillosis is a severe infection that occurs in patients with neutropenia, following organ or tissue transplant or in conjunction with aggressive immunosuppression therapy. This infection has a very high mortality rate of 50% to 80% due to rapid progression. It is often difficult to obtain deep tissue specimens or positive tissue cultures due to the critically ill nature of the patient.

A serological assay is available for the detection of galactomannan, a molecule found in the cell wall of the *Aspergillus* species. Monitoring of galactomannan can allow preemptive antifungal therapy before life threatening infection occurs or in the assessment of the therapeutic response. Antigen levels decline in response to antimicrobial therapy.

Specimen Requirement

Serum (min 1ml), Cerebrospinal fluid or BAL fluid

EPIC Ordering Info

EPIC test code: LAB4918

Horizon Lab test code: PASPER

Performing Lab

Mira Vista

If you have questions regarding this test, please contact Laboratory Customer Service at 585-LABS.

Antibiogram Data for 2012

Antibiogram data for 2012 is available for reference on the UC Health intranet under the Clinical Laboratory home page.

If you have questions, please call Microbiology at 584-3913 or Dr. Rhodes at 584-3923.

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS

Expansion of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Testing To Female Urines and Endocervical Specimens

On February 21, 2013, UC Health Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory will expand their in-house testing menu for chlamydia and gonorrhea by adding urine from females and endocervical specimens collected in PreservCyt® to the list of accepted specimen types for CT/NG testing. Urine from males, urethral swabs from males, and endocervical swabs collected in M4 transport will continue to be acceptable specimens.

The performance characteristics on the new sample types have been determined by the laboratory. The limit of detection for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in urines from females and in endocervical specimens collected in PreservCyt® is 10 CFU. For detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, the limit of detection for specimen types is 20 copies. These limits of detection for NG are comparable to those reported for other approved specimen types (range 2.25 – 100 CFU). For CT, the use of different standards precludes direct comparison.

However, in many assays, copies overestimates infectious units, so the range (0.75 – 10 IFU) is

comparable to 20 copies. This interpretation is supported by split sample testing, in which the in-house assay was over 98% accurate when compared with an FDA-approved assay for CT/NG in female urines.

Collect urines from females for CT/NG in the yellow top urine tube with NO additives. Endocervical specimens collected in PreservCyt® are now acceptable for CT/NG testing; testing is performed on the same vial submitted for cytopathology.

If you have further questions about this addition to the test menu, please call Microbiology at 584-3913 or Dr. Rhodes at 584-3923.

Flu Testing Availability

Due to allocations of FLUPCR testing kits throughout the country, UCMC Laboratory may run out of test kits. When this happens, the micro laboratory will cancel the FLUPCR with a comment "*FLUPCR cancelled. RFC ordered; turn-around time of RFC is greater than 24 hours*". *The specimen will be sent to the reference lab for an Influenza culture.*"

If you have further questions, please call Microbiology at 584-3913 or Dr. Rhodes at 584-3923.

EPIC INFORMATION

Lab Panel Components

When you order a panel test have you ever wondered exactly what tests are within that panel?

That information is only a few clicks away in the Intranet Lab Department page. All common panels on the facility list are listed in PDF form.

Click the Lab Panel Components on the left side to open up a printable file. If you have any questions regarding lab panels and testing, please call Lab Customer Service at 585-LABS.

Specimen Collection Requirements

The lab has posted guidelines to assist in the collection of specimens by non-laboratory staff on the Intranet. All lab specimen collection policies can be found on the Lab Department page. Go to the left column and click on Specimen Collection policies. Included are policies on Order of Draw, Transportation of Specimens, Blood Culture collections and many other useful policies that will assist in the collection of specimens for lab testing. If you have any questions regarding Specimen Collection, please call Lab Customer Service at 585-LABS.

TRANSFUSION SERVICES

Blood Donations

Every single day, blood recipients at the 31 hospitals in our Tri-State area rely on the generosity of blood donors for life-saving blood. Each day, Hoxworth Blood Center requires a minimum of 350 units of blood to meet those patient needs.

University of Cincinnati Medical Center transfuses a significant proportion of these units and spends over \$6 million per year on blood and blood products.

UCMC employees are encouraged to take advantage of the benefits of donating blood:

- A single donation could save up to 3 lives!
- Donors are given a mini-physical exam, including a blood pressure, pulse, temperature and a cholesterol level.
- UCMC can receive a credit on their annual blood spend based on the number of donations given in the name of UCMC. UCMC can receive up to a 10% reduction in blood expenses. Based on our annual spend, this could amount to \$600,000 of avoided costs.

So how do you donate?

- UCMC blood drives held throughout the year.
- Neighborhood donor centers as listed on the Hoxworth webpage
- Church/Community events

Upon registration at the blood drive, you will be asked if you wish to donate on behalf of any institution.

**Please donate and attribute
your donation to UCMC**

