

CSF INDEX

Orderable - CSFI

Turn Around Time: 4 hours

Alternate Name(s):

IgG/Alb CSF/Serum Ratio
CSFI

Specimen:

Adult	Pediatric
1 mL of CSF and a 5 mL Gold or 6 ml Red top Vacutainer	0-2 years: 0.5 mL Gold or Red Microtainer 2-10 years: 3 mL Gold or Red Vacutainer tube
Serum from a 4.5 ml Green (Lithium Heparin) is also acceptable	

Collection Information:

Minimum CSF volume required is 700 µl

Minimum serum volume required is 360 µl

Collect blood aseptically in a Vacutainer tube.

Avoid hemolysis.

Reference Ranges:

0.25 – 0.85

Interpretive Comments:

In addition to oligoclonal banding, the CSF index is used in the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

The increase in the CSF immunoglobulin concentration in MS patients is due to increased intrathecal synthesis of IgG and not to an increase in the permeability of



Laboratory:
Core Lab



Requisition:
GENERAL LABORATORY
REQUISITION



Method of Analysis:
Turbidimetry



Test Schedule:
Daily



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the blood-brain barrier.

The CSF index measures the CSF and serum concentrations of albumin and IgG. If the increase in CSF immunoglobulin concentration is due to increase permeability, the IgG/albumin ratio in the CSF compared with that in serum remains within expected values. If the increase is due to CSF-specific synthesis of IgG, the ratio is abnormally high.

The CSF index = $(\text{IgG}_{\text{CSF}}/\text{Albumin}_{\text{CSF}}) / (\text{IgG}_{\text{serum}}/\text{Albumin}_{\text{serum}})$

Critical Information Required:

Both CSF and serum are required to perform this test.

Storage and Shipment:

CSF is refrigerated at 2 – 8°C for up to 3 days. Store at –20°C for longer storage.

Serum can be stored and/or shipped at room temperature for up to 8 hours or refrigerated at 2 – 8°C for up to 5 days. Store at –20°C for longer storage.