

HERPES
SIMPLEX
VIRUS PCR
TYPE1/TYPE2

Orderable - HSVPCR

Turnaround Time: 3-5 days

Specimen and Collection Information:

| Specimen Type | Collection Information |
|--|---|
| CSF | Submit a minimum of 300ul for one test in sterile container. Ensure submission of adequate sample volume if multiple tests are required. |
| Blood (EDTA) Lavender top Vacutainer* <i>*for diagnosis of disseminated HSV on neonates and immunocompromised individuals</i> | Blood collected with EDTA anticoagulant (lavender-top tubes) is required. A minimum of 500ul plasma must be submitted, more than 1ml is recommended for multiple tests. |
| Lesion scrapings/swabs | When collecting material from vesicles, disrupt vesicle and collect fluid and cells from base of lesion with a swab submitted in Viral Transport Media (VTM) tube. Inoculate scrapings or swabs from ulcers directly into VTM. |
| Neonatal surface swabs** | Using a single regular flocked swab, swab conjunctivae, mouth, nasopharynx and rectum, and place in one Viral Transport Media (VTM) tube. <i>**any lesion should be swabbed separately</i> |
| Fluids | Submit a minimum of 300ul in sterile container, ensure submission of adequate sample volume if multiple tests are required. |
| Tissues*** | Submit a minimum of 0.5 grams in a sterile container. |



Laboratory:
Microbiology



Requisition:
Electronic Order



Method of Analysis:
PCR (Polymerase chain reaction)



Test Schedule:
CSF samples are tested once daily Monday to Friday.

Blood and Lesions are tested three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Requests for expedited testing in critical cases must be discussed with Microbiologist on-call.

***Tissues are sent to Public Health Laboratory for testing.

In General: Swabs contained in the Viral Transport Kit (VTM) should be used for collection.



Interpretive Comments:

Sample analyzed for Herpes simplex type 1 and 2 and Varicella Zoster Virus



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Special Processing:

For SRA:

After 9 pm: Centrifuge and aliquot plasma. Refrigerate and send to Microbiology the following morning.

Storage and Shipment:

Blood (EDTA): Tubes MUST be spun, separated and stored at 4°C for shipment the next morning if there is a delay of ≥ 4 hours in transport to the Microbiology Laboratory. If there is a delay of more than 24 hours, plasma MUST be frozen at -80°C.

All other specimen types: must be received within 24 hours and should be stored at 4°C as soon as possible following collection. If the transport time exceeds 24 hours, the specimen will only be tested if appropriate.