

VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS PCR

Orderable - VZVPCR

Turnaround Times: 3-5 days

Specimen Type and Collection Information:

Specimen Type	Collection Information
CSF	Submit a minimum of 300ul for one test, ensure submission of adequate sample volume if multiple tests are required.
Blood (EDTA) Lavender top Vacutainer*	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. <i>*not routinely indicated for the diagnosis of VZV infections, the preferred specimen is a lesion swab</i>
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). Inoculate scrapings or swabs from ulcers directly into VTM.
Fluids (Eye)	Submit a minimum of 300ul in sterile container, ensure submission of adequate sample volume if multiple tests are required.



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.

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

Special Processing:

For SRA:

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



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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.