

## Overview

### Method Name

Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) Pathway

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

CSF

### Specimen Required

**Specimen Type:** Spinal Fluid

**Sources:** CSF

**Container/Tube:** Sterile container

**Specimen Volume:** 2 mL

**Collection Instructions:** Collect 2 mL of spinal fluid (CSF) in a sterile container. Ship frozen.

### Reject Due To

Hemolysis	Mild reject; Gross reject
Lipemia	Mild reject; Gross reject
Icterus	Mild reject; Gross reject
Other	NA

### Specimen Minimum Volume

0.5 mL

### Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
CSF	Frozen (preferred)		
	Refrigerated	7 days	
	Ambient	4 days	

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## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

The Fungitell Beta-D Glucan assay is indicated for the presumptive diagnosis of invasive fungal disease through detection of elevated levels of (1,3)- Beta-D-glucan in serum. Normal human serum contains low levels of (1,3)- Beta-D glucan, typically 10 to 40 pg/mL, presumably from commensal yeasts present in the alimentary canal and gastrointestinal tract. However, (1,3)- Beta-D-glucan is sloughed from the cell walls during the life cycle of most pathogenic fungi. Thus, monitoring serum for evidence of elevated and rising levels of (1,3)- Beta-D-glucan provides a convenient surrogate marker for invasive fungal disease.

The Fungitell Beta - D Glucan assay detects (1,3) - Beta-D-glucan from the following pathogens: *Candida* spp., *Acremonium*, *Aspergillus* spp., *Coccidioides immitis*, *Fusarium* spp., *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Trichosporon* spp., *Sporothrix schenckii*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *Pneumocystis jiroveci*. The Fungitell Beta-D Glucan assay does not detect certain fungal species such as the genus *Cryptococcus*, which produces very low levels of (1,3) - Beta-D-glucan, nor the Zygomycetes, such as *Absidia*, *Mucor*, and *Rhizopus*, which are not known to produce (1,3) - Beta-D-glucan. Studies indicate *Blastomyces dermatitidis* is usually not detected due to little (1,3) - Beta-D-glucan produced in the yeast phase.

### Reference Values

A reference range for specimens other than serum has not been established.

### Interpretation

The performance characteristics of the Fungitell assay in CSF have been determined by Viracor-IBT Laboratories; there are no established criteria for the interpretation of Fungitell results from CSF fluid. Research studies have evaluated the use of the Fungitell assay in CSF during a fungal meningitis outbreak (*J. Clin. Microbiol.* 2013, 51(4):1285-1287).

## Performance

### PDF Report

No

### Performing Laboratory Location

Eurofins Viracor

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**Fees & Codes****Test Classification****CPT Code Information**

87449

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
FUNSF	Fungitell, CSF	Not Provided

Result ID	Reporting Name	LOINC®
FUNSF	Fungitell, CSF	Not Provided