

Overview

Useful For

Identification of Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV) infected cells

Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
IHTOI	IHC Initial, Tech Only	No	No
IHTOA	IHC Additional, Tech Only	No	No

Testing Algorithm

For the initial technical component only immunohistochemical (IHC) stain performed, the appropriate bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged (IHTOI). For each additional technical component only IHC stain performed, an additional bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged (IHTOA).

Method Name

Immunohistochemistry

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

TECHONLY

Ordering Guidance

This test includes only technical performance of the stain (no pathologist interpretation is performed). If diagnostic consultation by a pathologist is required order PATHC / Pathology Consultation.

Shipping Instructions

Attach the green pathology address label and the pink Immunostain Technical Only label included in the kit to the outside of the transport container.

Specimen Required

Supplies: Immunostain Technical Only Envelope (T693)

Specimen Type: Tissue

Preferred: 2 Unstained positively charged glass slide (25- x 75- x 1-mm) per test ordered; sections 4-microns thick.

Acceptable: Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue block

Digital Image Access

[Mayo Clinic is preparing to migrate to a new slide scanning solution and will need to temporarily suspend digital imaging for tech-only IHC/ISH orders received after June 17. We will send a follow-up notification by September 1st indicating when digital imaging resumes. We appreciate your patience as we improve our digital imaging solution.](#)

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Immunohistochemical \(IHC\)/In Situ Hybridization \(ISH\) Stains Request](#) (T763) with the specimen.

Reject Due To

Wet/frozen tissue Cytology smears Nonformalin fixed tissue Nonparaffin embedded tissue Noncharged slides ProbeOn slides	Reject
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Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
TECHONLY	Ambient (preferred)		
	Refrigerated		

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV) infections are common and typically benign. In rare instances, these infections lead to neoplastic transformations known as Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) through the expression (nuclear) of MCPyV large T-antigen. MCPyV-positive MCC have been reported to behave less aggressively than MCPyV-negative MCC.

Interpretation

This test includes only technical performance of the stain (no pathologist interpretation is performed). Mayo Clinic cannot provide an interpretation of tech only stains outside the context of a pathology consultation. If an interpretation is needed, refer to PATHC / Pathology Consultation for a full diagnostic evaluation or second opinion of the case. All material associated with the case is required. Additional specific stains may be requested as part of the pathology consultation, and will be performed as necessary at the discretion of the Mayo pathologist.

The positive and negative controls are verified as showing appropriate immunoreactivity and documentation is retained at Mayo Clinic Rochester. If a control tissue is not included on the slide, a scanned image of the relevant quality control tissue is available upon request. Contact 855-516-8404.

Interpretation of this test should be performed in the context of the patient's clinical history and other diagnostic tests by a qualified pathologist.

Cautions

Age of a cut paraffin section can affect immunoreactivity. Stability thresholds vary widely among published literature and are antigen-dependent. Best practice is for paraffin sections to be cut within 6 weeks.

Clinical Reference

1. Leroux-Kozal V, Leveque N, Brodard V, et al: Merkel cell carcinoma: histopathologic and prognostic features according to the immunohistochemical expression of Merkel cell polyomavirus large T antigen correlated with viral load. Hum Pathol 2015 Mar;46(3):443-453
2. Samimi M, Molet L, Fleury M, et al: Prognostic value of antibodies to Merkel cell polyomavirus T antigens and VP1 protein in patients with Merkel cell carcinoma. A Br J Dermatol 2016 Apr;174(4):813-822
3. Richards KF, Guastafierro A, Shuda M, et al: Merkel cell polyomavirus T antigens promote cell proliferation and inflammatory cytokine gene expression. J Gen Virol 2015 Dec;96(12):3532-3544
4. Jung HS, Choi YL, Choi JS, et al: Detection of Merkel cell polyomavirus in Merkel cell carcinomas and small cell carcinomas by PCR and immunohistochemistry. Histol Histopathol 2011 Oct;26(10):1231-1241

Performance**Method Description**

Immunohistochemistry on sections of paraffin-embedded tissue.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Friday

Report Available

1 to 3 days

Specimen Retention Time

Until staining is complete.

Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

Fees & Codes**Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to [Test Prices](#) for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact [Customer Service](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their Regional Manager. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

Test Classification

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

CPT Code Information

88342-TC, primary

88341-TC, if additional IHC

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
MERKC	Merkel CC (MCPyV) IHC, Tech Only	Order only;no result

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
71542	Merkel CC (MCPyV) IHC, Tech Only	Bill only; no result