MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: WEED4

Weed Panel # 4, Serum

Overview

Useful For

Establishing a diagnosis of an allergy to giant ragweed, short ragweed, and Western ragweed

Defining the allergen responsible for eliciting signs and symptoms

Identifying allergens:
-Responsible for allergic disease and/or anaphylactic episode
-To confirm sensitization prior to beginning immunotherapy

Testing for IgE antibodies is **not useful** in patients previously treated with immunotherapy to determine if residual clinical sensitivity exists, or in patients in whom the medical management does not depend upon identification of allergen specificity.

Testing Algorithm

Includes testing for giant ragweed, short ragweed, and Western ragweed allergen.

Special Instructions

- Allergens - Immunoglobulin E (IgE) Antibodies

Highlights

This multi-allergen IgE antibody panel, combined with measurement of IgE in serum, is an appropriate first-order test for allergic disease.

It requires less specimen volume and less cost for ruling out allergic response; however, individual (single) allergen responses cannot be identified. In cases of a positive test, follow-up testing must be performed to differentiate between individual allergens in the panel.

Note: Only one result is generated for each panel.

Method Name

Fluorescence Enzyme Immunoassay (FEIA)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Ordering Guidance

This test uses a pooled allergen reagent; therefore, the multi-allergen Immunocap (panel cap) is reported with a single qualitative class result and concentration. This is the appropriate first-tier test for allergic disease.

For a listing of allergens available for testing, see Allergens - Immunoglobulin E (IgE) Antibodies in Special Instructions

Specimen Required

Container/Tube:
Preferred: Red top
Acceptable: Serum gel
Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send an Allergen Test Request (T236) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.3 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days	
	Frozen	90 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Clinical manifestations of immediate hypersensitivity (allergic) diseases are caused by the release of proinflammatory mediators (histamine, leukotrienes, and prostaglandins) from immunoglobulin E (IgE)-sensitized effector cells (mast cells and basophils) when cell-bound IgE antibodies interact with allergen.

In vitro serum testing for IgE antibodies provides an indication of the immune response to allergen(s) that may be associated with allergic disease.

The allergens chosen for testing often depend upon the age of the patient, history of allergen exposure, season of the year, and clinical manifestations. In individuals predisposed to develop allergic disease(s), the sequence of sensitization and clinical manifestations proceed as follows: eczema and respiratory disease (rhinitis and bronchospasm) in infants and children less than 5 years due to food sensitivity (milk, egg, soy, and wheat proteins) followed by respiratory disease

(rhinitis and asthma) in older children and adults due to sensitivity to inhalant allergens (dust mite, mold, and pollen inhalants).

Reference Values

Class	IgE kU/L	Interpretation
0	<0.35	Negative
1	0.35-0.69	Equivocal
2	0.70-3.49	Positive
3	3.50-17.4	Positive
4	17.5-49.9	Strongly positive
5	50.0-99.9	Strongly positive
6	> or =100	Strongly positive

Reference values apply to all ages.

Interpretation

Positive results indicate the possibility of allergic disease induced by one or more allergens present in the multi-allergen cap.

Negative results may rule out allergy, except in rare cases of allergic disease induced by exposure to a single allergen.

Detection of IgE antibodies in serum (Class 1 or greater) indicates an increased likelihood of allergic disease as opposed to other etiologies and defines the allergens that may be responsible for eliciting signs and symptoms.

The level of IgE antibodies in serum varies directly with the concentration of IgE antibodies expressed as a class score or kU/L.

Cautions

Some individuals with clinically insignificant sensitivity to allergens may have measurable levels of IgE antibodies in serum, and results must be interpreted in the clinical context.

False-positive results for IgE antibodies may occur in patients with markedly elevated serum IgE (>2500 kU/L) due to nonspecific binding to allergen solid phases.

Since only one result is generated for this panel, individual (single) allergen responses cannot be identified. When this panel is positive, follow-up testing is required to differentiate between individual allergens in the panel.

Clinical Reference

Homburger HA, Hamilton RG: Allergic diseases. In: McPherson RA, Pincus MR, eds. Henry's Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods. 23rd ed. Elsevier; 2017:1057-1070

Performance

Method Description

Specific IgE from the patient's serum reacts with the allergen of interest, which is covalently coupled to an ImmunoCAP. After washing away nonspecific IgE, enzyme-labeled anti-IgE antibody is added to form a complex. After incubation, unbound anti-IgE is washed away and the bound complex is then incubated with a developing agent. After stopping the reaction, the fluorescence of the eluate is measured. Fluorescence is proportional to the amount of specific IgE present in the patient's sample (ie, the higher the fluorescence value, the more IgE antibody is present).(Package insert: ImmunoCAP System Specific IgE FEIA, Uppsala, Sweden Rev 06/2019)

PDF Report
No

Day(s) Performed
Monday through Friday

Report Available
1 to 3 days

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 account representative. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test was developed, and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. This test has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information
86003

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
WEED4	Weed Panel # 4	73710-6

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
WEED4	Weed Panel # 4	73710-6