Overview

Useful For
Aiding in the diagnosis of *Kingella kingae* infection in tissue or synovial fluid specimens

Method Name
Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Varies

Necessary Information
Specimen source is required.

Specimen Required
The high sensitivity of amplification by PCR requires the specimen to be processed in an environment in which contamination of the specimen by *Kingella kingae* DNA is unlikely.

Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

Specimen Type: Synovial fluid

Preferred: Lavender top (EDTA)

Acceptable: Pink top (EDTA), royal blue top (EDTA), sterile vial containing EDTA-derived aliquot, red clot tube (no anticoagulant), or sterile container

Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL

Collection Instructions: Send specimen in original tube (preferred).

Specimen Stability Information: Refrigerated (preferred) <7 days /Frozen <7 days

Specimen Type: Fresh tissue or biopsy

Sources: Bone, joint, synovium, heart valve, aorta, or endocardium

Container/Tube: Sterile container

Specimen Volume: Entire collection or 5 mm(3)- approximately the size of a pencil eraser

Collection Instructions:
1. Collect fresh tissue specimen.

2. Submit tissue only, do not add fluid to tissue

3. Refrigerate or freeze specimen.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Refrigerated (preferred) <7 days/ Frozen <7 days

**Preferred Paraffin-embedded tissue block:**

**Supplies:** Tissue Block Container (T553)

**Specimen Type:** Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue block (FFPE)

**Sources:** Bone, joint, synovium, heart valve, aorta, or endocardium

**Container/Tube:** Tissue block

**Collection Instructions:** Submit a formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue block to be cut and returned.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred)/Refrigerated

**Acceptable Paraffin-embedded tissue block:**

**Specimen Type:** Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue block (FFPE)

**Sources:** Bone, joint, synovium, heart valve, aorta, or endocardium

**Container/Tube:** Sterile container for each individual cut section (scroll).

**Collection Instructions:** Perform microtomy and prepare five separate 10-micron sections. **Each section (scroll) must be placed in a separate sterile container for submission.**

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred)/Refrigerated

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

Fluid: 0.5 mL

Fresh tissue or biopsy: 5 mm(3)

Paraffin-embedded tissue block: two 10-micron sections

**Reject Due To**

| Tissue in formalin, formaldehyde, or acetone Decalcified bone Bone marrow or slides | Reject |

**Specimen Stability Information**
Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information

Kingella kingae is a fastidious short Gram-negative bacillus that may colonize the oropharynx of young children. Colonization may occasionally lead to invasive disease via hematogenous dissemination, primarily in children younger than 4 years of age. This most commonly results in bone and joint infection; K kingae is the most frequent cause of osteomyelitis and septic arthritis in children aged 6 to 36 months. K kingae may also cause endocarditis, involving both native and prosthetic valves, in patients of any age and is considered part of the HACEK (Haemophilus species, Aggregatibacter species, Cardiobacterium hominis, Eikenella corrodens, and Kingella species) group of organisms, known for causing culture-negative endocarditis. K kingae produces a repeat-in-toxin (RTX) toxin.

Diagnosis of K kingae infection may be challenging due to the fastidious nature of the organism in culture. Evaluation of cardiac, bone, joint tissue, or fluid by PCR is a useful tool for the diagnosis of some cases of K kingae infection.

Reference Values
Not applicable

Interpretation
A positive result indicates the presence of Kingella kingae DNA.

A negative result indicates the absence of detectable K kingae DNA, but does not negate the presence of the organism and may occur due to inhibition of PCR, sequence variability underlying primers or probes, or the presence of K kingae DNA in quantities less than the limit of detection of the assay.

Cautions
Test results should be used as an aid in diagnosis. The single assay should not be used as the only criteria to form a clinical conclusion, but results should be correlated with patient symptoms and clinical presentation. A negative result does not negate the presence of the organism or active disease.

This assay does not detect species of Kingella other than kingae or negevensis (see Supportive Data).

This assay cross-reacts with Kingella negevensis.(1)

Supportive Data
This assay was validated by testing 30-spiked positive samples and 10-negative samples for each accepted sample type; fresh tissue, formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue (FFPE), synovial fluid, and EDTA blood. No PCR inhibition was encountered. The assay was 100% sensitive and specific. The assay showed no cross-reactivity when tested with a panel of 67 bacterial isolates, including Kingella species other than kingae. The limit of detection (LoD) in fresh tissue and FFPE was 73.7 CFU/mcL. The LoD of synovial fluid was 1.3 CFU/mcL.

Clinical Reference

2. Murphy TF: In Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. Edited by GL
Test Definition: KKRP
Kingella kingae PCR


### Performance

#### Method Description

Nucleic acid is extracted from the specimen using the automated MagNA Pure instrument. Target specific primers are used to amplify the *rxtB* gene region of *Kingella kingae*; amplification is monitored by detecting fluorescence produced by target-specific FRET hybridization probes. This real-time PCR reaction takes place on a LightCycler instrument. Detection of the *K kingae* target is performed through melting curve analysis using the LightCycler software. (Cockerill FR, Uhl JR: Applications and challenges of real-time PCR for the clinical microbiology laboratory. In Rapid Cycle Real-Time PCR Methods and Applications. Edited by U Reischl, C Wittwer, F Cockerill. Berlin, Germany, Springer-Verlag, 2002, pp 3-27; Zbinden R: *Aggregatibacter, Capnocytophaga, Eikenella, Kingella, Pasteurella*, and Other Fastidious or Rarely Encountered Gram-Negative Rods. In Manual of Clinical Microbiology. 12th edition. Edited by K Carroll, M Pfaller. Washington DC, ASM Press, 2019, pp 656-669)

### PDF Report

No

### Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

### Analytic Time

2 days

### Maximum Laboratory Time

7 days

### Specimen Retention Time

1 week

### Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

### Fees and 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 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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

### CPT Code Information
### LOINC® Information

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