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**

| Other | Tissue in formalin, formaldehyde, or acetone; decalcified bone; bone marrow; or slides |

**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/ml. The LoD of synovial fluid was 1.3 CFU/ml.

**Clinical Reference**


2. Murphy TF: In Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. Edited by GL
Performance

Method Description


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
Test Definition: KKRP
Kingella kingae PCR

87798

LOINC® Information

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